



**RAVING
WOMEN
AND SOAC**
Pavarotti on the
new love in
his life

PAGE 17



**THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL**

**HELP TO FIGHT
THE HIDDEN
CANCER**

SAVE WILD ANIMALS

DETAILS PAGE 6



RECOVER THE SKIN OF SPORT

CAPTAIN DALLAGLIO

How we stopped the All Blacks

PAGE 25

PLUS SPECIAL 1 PAGE SUPPLEMENT

World Cup 98

TODAY

10P

6 ENT

BY JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

Leading article, page 21



Landscape's lure, p. 5

BY JILL SHERMAN

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

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Church takes mission to supermarket aisles

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

decision was made to broadcast the carol service live through every store, via the store's Wigan broadcasting centre.

**"Hope to see you
in supermarket
on Sunday"**

هكذا من الأصل

Pressure builds on Robinson over offshore trusts

The Paymaster General faces fresh questions over his financial affairs this week, says Chris Ayres

PRESSURE is mounting on Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire minister, to make a detailed statement on his financial affairs after the discovery that he has connections to offshore trusts in Bermuda as well as Guernsey.

The Paymaster General, who is a key government adviser on tax policy, has been accused of hypocrisy after last week launching the Government's £50,000 limit on tax-free savings. There is also concern that there could be a conflict of interest between his financial af-

fairs and his position as Paymaster General. Records show that in 1991 Mr Robinson transferred a personal shareholding worth about £380,000 in Latchum, a family property company, into the International Trust Company of Bermuda.

Mr Robinson is under pressure to reveal how many offshore trusts he has an interest in, and how he funds his lifestyle, which includes owning homes in Cannes, Tuscany and Hampshire.

Mr Robinson's connection to trusts in Bermuda was discovered only a week after it emerged that the MP was a beneficiary of the Orion trust in Guernsey. Mr Robinson's decision not to declare his connection to Orion in the Register of Members' Interests is to be investigated by Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary com-

missioner for standards. There is also speculation over how much money was given to Mr Robinson by Joska Bourgeois, the wealthy Belgian car importer who set up Orion for the MP before she died in 1994.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, last week added to the pressure on Mr Robinson by questioning the independence of Orion. Mr Robinson claims there is no need to declare his interest in the trust because it was not established by him, and that it is operated at arm's length. He also says he is only a discretionary beneficiary of Orion.

Left-wing teachers in secret talks on new 'super union'

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LEFT-WING teachers have held secret talks on the establishment of a "super-union" covering schools and colleges, which moderates claim would revive the threat of classroom disruption.

Financial troubles caused by falling membership have caused speculation over the long-term future of the 65,000-strong National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. There has been a steady drift of university members into a rival union, and many activists see the National Union of Teachers as the natural home of their counterparts in further education colleges.

Militant college lecturers could tip the balance of power towards the hard Left in the NUT and lend new support for industrial action in schools. Moderates hold a majority of two on the NUT executive and a fierce battle is being fought this year for political control of the union.

The Left fielded a strong slate of candidates for the five officers' posts in elections held last month. Four former presidents wrote to all London

members saying that they were "alarmed by the incursion of Trotskyist groups into the NUT" and urging them to vote for moderate candidates, who subsequently won all five contests.

Although the Left has dominated recent NUT conferences, winning key votes and capturing the headlines, it has never secured a majority on the union's national executive.

Following an approach by NUT to John Monks, the TUC general secretary, in July, teaching union representatives met last week to discuss closer relationships and a sharing of some services.

Derek Betts, NUT's senior official, wrote to Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, in October suggesting that the two unions should consider closer links.

Natthe has fought a series of lengthy and largely unsuccessful disputes in further education colleges. More than 10,000 lecturers have lost their jobs or become part-time.

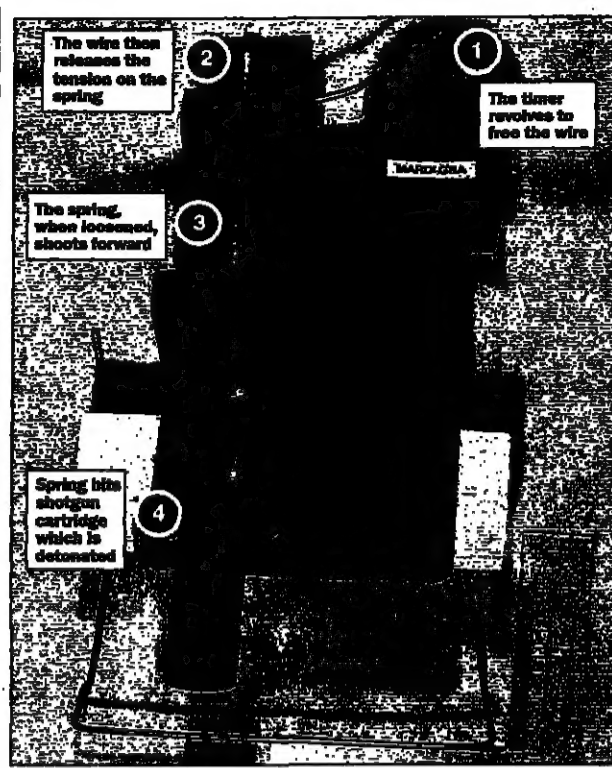
Two of the last three general secretaries have been voted out of office, while the third resigned under pressure from

the union's executive last May. A successor will be named on Friday, following an election in which three of the five candidates have advocated closer links with the NUT.

Mr Betts, who was not a candidate, acknowledged that Natthe had financial difficulties, but said there were no plans for mergers. The union already had a partnership agreement with the NUT.

"There are lots of different scenarios that people paint for the future, but we certainly haven't opened merger talks with anybody," he said.

However, a leading NUT moderate who declined to be named, said: "There is open talk of mergers among Natthe members, who doubt that the union will be viable for more than five years. They see the higher education membership going to the AUT, whether in dribs and drabs or a merger, while the NUT would provide a strong base for the rest. It would be extremely dangerous for schools if that happened because they form the most militant section of Natthe and the Left could dominate the union."



The device hidden in a Sainsbury's bag

Shopping-bag bomber may kill

By TERRI JUDD

DETECTIVES said yesterday that an innocent person could be killed if a blackmailer who calls himself the "Mardi Gra" bomber has struck in London and the South to try to extort cash from businesses.

On the third anniversary of the first hit, he struck for the 31st time, terrifying a 73-year-old pensioner who picked up a potentially deadly package.

To date no one has been seriously injured, but Detective Superintendent Jeffrey Rees said: "I believe someone knows or may suspect who this person is. I would ask them to contact police as soon as possible before some innocent person is seriously injured."

The latest incident was on Saturday afternoon when a pensioner inadvertently picked up a Sainsbury's bag along with her own shopping at a bus stop on the Uxbridge Road, near the West Ealing store. It was not until she returned to her home in Hanwell, West London, that she discovered a 20cm device made up of a timer, spring,

copper tubing and shotgun cartridge. The improvised shotgun matched previous bombs designed to fire when opened.

A team from the Anti-Terrorist Branch and Metropolitan police's Organised Crime Group still cannot offer a clear description of the bomber. They are even reluctant to state whether it is the work of a single man, woman or team.

The bomber first struck on December 6, 1994, when six parcels were posted to Barclays' banks followed by a blackmail demand. Wrapped in Christmas paper they bore the message "Welcome to the Mardi Gra experience". Nine attacks followed. The last, in April 1996, injured three people.

Theories that a disgruntled employee or customer was behind the campaign were scotched when the focus moved from the bank to supermarkets. Police said that anyone spotting an unattended Sainsbury's bag to report it immediately.

Electronic signature 'will cut red tape'

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

PEOPLE will be able to fill in a tax return, apply for state benefits and renew their car licence from the comfort of home under an electronic revolution to be launched by the Government today.

David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will announce plans for the first "electronic signature", which is intended to make paper forms obsolete.

Using either an on-line home computer or one of the new digital TV screens, the public will be given direct access to government departments and their agencies.

Instead of filling in a form, signing it and posting it off to the relevant government department, people will have the option of inputting the necessary data on screen, adding their personal electronic signature and then submitting their application at the press of a button.

The project is being backed by the billionaire chairman of Microsoft, Bill Gates, NatWest Bank and EDS UK Ltd. Mr Gates is helping the Government with its scheme to link Britain's schools to the Internet.

But a report out today from Demos, an independent think-tank, urges ministers to go further. The report, by Lord Freeman, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, says that ministers should scrap their red boxes and use laptop computers in their cars and electronic pocket diaries capable of receiving e-mail messages throughout the day.

MPs should no longer be compelled to file through the division lobbies. Instead, they should be able to vote at remote terminals throughout Westminster using swipe cards. Computer technology could also transform election day, producing an almost instant result if people were allowed to vote electronically, the report says.

□ *Democracy in the digital age.* By Lord Freeman. Available from Demos, 9 Brideswell Place, London EC4V 6AP. Price £5.55

Adams will tell Prime Minister to end British sovereignty

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS will use his visit to Downing Street this Thursday to demand Britain's withdrawal from Northern Ireland. "For the first time since 1921 a British Prime Minister is going to hear Irish republicans politely but very firmly tell him that it's time to go," said the first Irish republican leader to be invited to Number 10 since Michael Collins signed the treaty that led to partition.

It was "time for Britain to end its constitutional claim to a part of our country... time to heal the division fuelled by Britain's presence," the Sinn Féin president told republican supporters in County Cork. "Let me assure you that when we meet Tony Blair in London this week at the top of our agenda is a free, independent Ireland."

There is no chance of Mr Blair ceding to Mr Adams' demand, and he intends to emphasise that republicans must adhere to "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" of pursuing their goal. But Unionists and Conservatives again called on the Prime Minister to cancel a meeting they have labelled a propaganda coup for Sinn Féin.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, said Mr Blair's own security advisers had told him the IRA would probably revert to violence in the new year. He accused Mr Adams, the Northern Ireland Secretary, of "leading out concession after concession to Sinn Féin" and cautioned that his own party's withdrawal from the talks was "not an impossibility".

Mr Trimble also dismissed out of hand a call by Martin McGuinness, the other Sinn Féin MP, for the two parties to hold face-to-face talks before Christmas. He said Sinn Féin had yet to put forward any serious policy proposals and was not living in the real world.

Andrew Hunter, vice-chair-

man of the Conservatives' backbench Northern Ireland committee and another strong critic of the Downing Street meeting, heralded the breakdown of the traditionally bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland when he addressed the weekend conference of Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party.

"The Labour Government has adopted policies which we rejected in government. It is also adopting new policies which the Conservatives believe are profoundly mistaken," he said.

□ *The Loyalist Volunteer Force, a paramilitary group opposed to the ceasefire, was widely blamed yesterday for the shooting of Gerry Devlin, 36, a Roman Catholic man with two children, outside a Gaelic sports club near Belfast.*

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said the murder was sectarian. Mr Devlin was shot four times in the head in the club's car park shortly after 11pm on Friday night. The LVF, a small and ruthless splinter group, killed another Gaelic sports official earlier this year and is believed to have recently recruited high-ranking defectors from the pro-sectarian Ulster Volunteer Force.



Adams: Downing Street meeting this week

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Middle class benefits tax

Continued from page 1
plan could help combat housing benefit fraud now estimated at £2 billion a year. The housing benefit bill has risen from £2.12 billion in 1982 to £11.52 billion in 1996 and 4 million people now claim help.

Other proposals include means testing or taxing the six benefits to help the sick and disabled. Taxing all the benefits would raise £1 billion a year, although some officials favour means testing. Only one of the benefits, disability working allowance is now means tested but this repre-

sents a tiny proportion of the £23 billion disability bill. Incapacity benefit which cost over £7 billion is taxed at the higher rate after a certain period but the other payments many of which go to wealthy claimants are not taxed.

Treasury ministers are also looking at the option of insurance based schemes. The front runner is to replace the £600 million Industrial Injuries Compensation Scheme with an insurance plan paid by employers. The proposals have not yet been approved by the Prime Minister.

□ *Benefits at issue*
Child benefit
Cost: £6.8bn.
How many recipients: 7m get £11 a week for eldest child.
Why change: rises to too many people who don't need it.
Housing benefit
Cost: £11.52bn.
How many claim: 4.7m, who receive from £50 to £75 a week.
Why change: leads to high rents and benefit fraud.
Disability benefits
Cost: £23bn.
How many recipients: 6.5m.
Different benefits up to £64.70 a week.
Why change: soaring costs, up 400 per cent since 1982, too many payments to well-off.
Retirement pension
Cost: £32bn.
How many recipients: 10.56m, who get £64.70 per week (single).
Why change: poorest pensioners need more help.

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The BBC's hottest property has spawned 97 lines, but the ultimate toy will not be on sale this year

Well done. You've finally tracked down a Dipsy. But does it talk?

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND RAYMOND SNOODY

FOR parents who have queued through the night and braved stampedes to secure a Teletubbie toy, there is a new nightmare.

Hot on the heels of the 97 lines of Christmas Teletubbie merchandise flooding the shops, from wellington boots to giant teddywinks, comes the ultimate product — the Talking Teletubbie.

Manufacturers will unveil the latest Teletubbie offering next month in a move that is likely to anger those who have spent millions in the Christmas rush. The Talking

Teletubbie dolls, which have not been made available before Christmas, are predicted to be an instant hit.

The television-derived characters will say "eh-oh", "custard" and "hoo" when their stomachs are pressed. The manufacturers will almost certainly be criticised for staggering the release of increasingly sophisticated products to maintain demand.

The Teletubbies' pop song *Say Eh-Oh* is the favourite to top the Christmas charts. BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, will

reportedly make £5 million in one year from Teletubbie sales. Since the first programme was broadcast on March 31, the Teletubbies are close to becoming the biggest property the BBC has ever had, ahead of *Delta Smith*, *Michael Palin* and even *Wallace and Gromit*, the most successful so far.

But the BBC has missed out on a large chunk of potential Teletubbie revenue. Although it has secured the rights for most of the world, Anne Wood, creator of the Teletubbies, has ensured that Ragdoll, her production company, has kept the merchandising rights for the United States, where the market is worth an estimated £12 billion. The first 40 episodes have already been sold to PBS (Public Broadcast Service) in America. Ms Wood originally invested £500,000 of her own money in her creation. She insists she has reinvested every penny.

Under current terms any manufacturer using the Teletubbie name pays 10 per cent of the wholesale price for the lease. Of that sum Ragdoll gets 60 per cent and the BBC 40 per cent.

The programme is currently running in Portugal, South Africa, New Zealand, Holland, Singapore, Denmark and Israel. Last week Teletubbies conquered Japan, winning the Grand Prix award devoted to encouraging "the global progress of educational broadcasting and the promotion of goodwill throughout the world."

Merchandise ranges from playsets to wallpaper borders. St Ivel is still in negotiations with the BBC to produce Tubby Custard and a range of



Mission accomplished: Saturday morning at Toys 'R Us in Brent Cross, and supplies of Teletubbies get through to relieved shoppers



Queues at Brent Cross, London, yesterday

chilled desserts. Golden Bear, the toymaker that has the contract to make much sought-after Teletubbie soft toys (priced between £10.99 and £13.99), stopped taking orders for them on August 31. One million have gone out but the company estimates it could have sold at least three times that amount. John Hales, chairman of the family-owned company that gave children Mr Men, Postman Pat and Forever Friends toys, says he is also working on Teletubbie hug-me backpacks and a full Homehill playset complete with Nook-Nooks the friendly vacuum cleaner from Teletubieland.

The company is now working on the prototype for Talking Teletubbies, which will be unveiled at the British Toy and Hobby Fair at Olym-

pia in London in January. A spokeswoman said: "They are simply gorgeous. They are slightly bigger than the soft toys we have been making for Christmas. We are using the voices of the actual television actors so children will love them." She added it was not yet known how much they would cost or when they would be in the shops.

Richard Perks, of the retail analysts Verdict, said that, like all merchandise, Teletubbies had a life cycle and the manufacturers were taking care to elongate it as much as possible. "Parents might be depressed about this, but it is the market," he said. "Investors will want a return on their investment. In five years' time no one will want Teletubbies so they have to be careful not to accelerate its life

cycle. If it is being unveiled at the toy fair in January that will put it in the chain for next Christmas."

Christmas toy shortages are nothing new. In the 1930s there was a stampede for yoyos. In 1938, 20 million hula-hoops were sold. Spirograph was launched in 1965, starting a craze for the pattern-making toy that manufacturers could not meet. Parents were fighting over Star Wars figures, first produced in 1978, for Christmas presents. In 1984 the hot property was Cabbage Patch Dolls. In 1990 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles dolls swept the nursery shelves. More recently *Tracy Island* models from the *Thunderbirds* film were the craze. Last year Buzz Lightyear dolls sold out within hours of reaching the shops.

WHAT DO I HEAR FOR A LAA-LAA?

The frenzy to secure a Teletubbie in time for Christmas is such that a touts market has emerged. *Loot*, the free-advertisements paper, carries regular ads from people who have bought the dolls and are willing to sell them at hugely inflated prices. One woman, who wanted £1,000 for the full set of Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy and Po, received hate mail from other frustrated parents. And the nightmare need not end with the dolls: other merchandise includes Teletubbie splashbaths, sleepovers, flip-top watch, inflatable, rotapoly baby gym, CD wallet holder, floor picnic, bubble bath, pyjamas and slippers.

Disgraced clergyman asks for forgiveness

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE Scottish clergyman found guilty of embezzlement yesterday apologised to his former congregation for the embarrassment and hurt he had caused them.

At a service in St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Brechin, Angus, the Very Rev Michael Bunce, the former rector, asked the parishioners for forgiveness for "five years of 'unmitigated hell'". In July, June, who denies the offence, was found guilty of embezzling £44,000 from the St Andrew's Businessmen's Association, which he had set up to help the local unemployed. He was fined £60,000 by Forfar Sheriff Court. He had spent the money on hotels, a car, and ponies for his children.

While some parishioners said he deserved forgiveness, many in the congregation stayed away.

Bunce rose during the confession and repentance section of the liturgy to address the congregation of 30, and began by asking for their prayers. He said he was seeking God's forgiveness for the "deep hurt and considerable embarrassment" he had "unwittingly caused this congregation and the business community".

Rarely looking up from his text, he said he had come to Brechin with two aims, to build up the congregation and "place the church on a sound spiritual and financial footing" which would enable it to bring "hope and dignity" to the unemployed in the town. "With your support and the generosity of the Brechin com-

munity, I dare to suggest that both these aims were achieved.

"However, I have to confess that the runaway success of the second goal, by my own arrogance, ambition and failure to demand proper supervision and direction from my spiritual superiors, led me to immerse myself too deeply in the commercial, worldly business of St Andrew's Businessmen's Association Ltd.

"With hindsight, I now realise that all this was beyond my remit and led to dangerous incursions into my spiritual position amongst you and your subsequent pain." Dr Bunce said help and supervision had been available but he had not requested it. "Many of you have been hurt terribly and I have lost my home and ministry. For all this I wish to apologise unreservedly.

"The ambition to achieve

two goals led me into irresponsible actions. I have never set out to be an embezzler, nor to seek personal fortune at the expense of others.

"I was foolish, arrogant and ambitious and sadly have learnt much from this bitter pain and recriminations of Christian colleagues and the loss of my own spiritual reputation amongst you all."

Bunce knelt at the feet of the Bishop of Brechin, the Rt Rev Neville Chamberlain who placed his hand on his former colleague's head and proclaimed the Episcopal Church's liturgy of confession and repentance, which was repeated by the congregation. Bunce returned to his seat and knelt in his pew, beside his wife. He later took Communion.

He has not been defrocked but has resigned his licence to practise, and is unemployed.



The Very Rev Michael Bunce leaves church yesterday

Police use CS gas at football ground

FOOTBALL supporters' groups were concerned yesterday at what is believed to be the first police use of CS spray at a British soccer ground.

Trouble broke out among visiting supporters at the end of Saturday's drawn FA Cup match between Souths and Ilkeston. An officer was being kicked on the ground and CS was the best option, Humberside police said.

The incident came days after the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs held a meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers and asked for policemen to be disarmed of CS spray before going into football grounds. Monica Hartland, the Federation's deputy chairman, said:

"This sounds like it might have been a wholly exceptional case and we do understand that the police need protection. However, we are concerned that CS spray is being used in a football ground."

Inspector Steve Love said that a group of about 60 Ilkeston fans abused officers who tried to prevent a pitch invasion. They then tried to pull the officers into the stand. The officers quite rightly tried to arrest the ringleaders. One officer, a 24-year-old male constable, was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked. The officers' colleagues went to his aid and out of necessity used CS spray in an effort to incapacitate and arrest the offenders. (PA News)

Football, pages 25 & 28-32

Pop stars mark death of Princess

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A HUNDRED days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, pop stars gathered at Battersea power station to mark the anniversary with a fund-raising concert. Boyzone, All Saints, Peter Andre and former Take That members Gary Barlow and Robbie Williams were among those performing and joining together for a finale rendition of *Let it Be* before an audience of 6,000 at the Diana Memorial Concert of Hope last night.

The concert was not attended by any members of the Royal Family but was

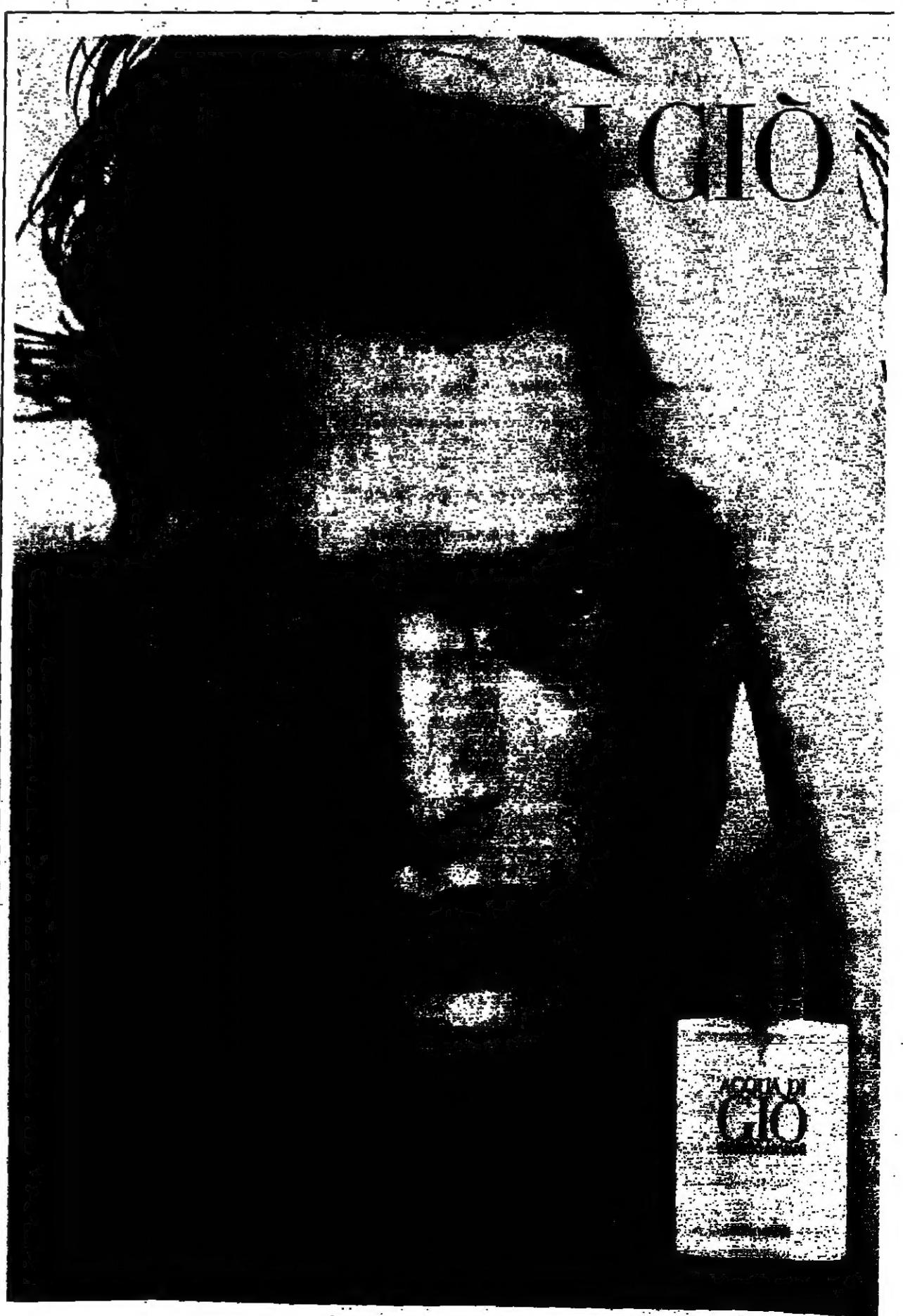
supported by the Palace. It followed news that the Diana, Princess of Wales tribute album, released last week, has already become the fastest-selling compilation record ever.

But while the concert, for which fans paid £25 a ticket, and the CD are set to raise £100 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, the weeks before Christmas are likely to be marred by legal battles and accusations of exploitation over her death.

Later this week, lawyers for the memorial fund will seek leave at the High Court to begin legal proceedings

against Mirror Group Newspapers, which wants to make a television film about the Princess, concentrating on her relationship with Dodi Fayed.

Fund directors, already horrified that the roles of the Princess and Mr Fayed have been cast, were further dismayed by news that the £15 million production is seeking an actress to play Kelly Fisher, the model who claimed to be engaged to Dodi at the time of his courtship with the Princess. They are hoping to be awarded an injunction against MGM on the basis that the company did not seek permission from the fund.



Police crackdown forces farmers to drop blockade

FARMERS protesting at cheap beef imports and falling incomes ran into stiffer police resistance yesterday and abandoned a planned blockade of Britain's busiest port.

Dover police arrested five farmers for obstructing the highway and impounded their vehicles. About 20 tractors and cattle trailers turned round a mile from the entrance to the Eastern Docks after the drivers were warned that they too would be arrested if they tried to proceed. One tractor and a cattle lorry got as far as the port entrance but found their way blocked by a police van.

Hugh Richards, a farmer from Biddenden, in Kent, who organised the Dover protest, said: "We had no choice but to call the blockade off and we will not be trying it again. The police used very heavy-handed tactics and said they would arrest us just for threatening an obstruction."

The police defended their tactics, saying that they were no different from those used in the past to deal with animal rights activists trying to stop livestock lorries boarding cross-Channel ferries.

"We are not prepared to negotiate with people over the extent to which they can break the law", a police spokesman said. "We have told farmers that if they break the law, they will be arrested, charged and put before the courts."

A protest at

Dover was

ended by

new tactics,

writes Michael

Hornby

Police in Wales and Scotland have allowed farmers to inspect the cargoes of arriving lorries, and browbeat drivers carrying Irish beef into turning back. At Holyhead, on Anglesey, one driver agreed to turn round at the weekend after picketing farmers discovered that he had concealed Irish beef beneath a load of mushrooms.

North Wales police said that they were studying video film of the incident a week ago, in which farmers threw a cargo of Irish beef burgers into the sea. Officers said they would start legal proceedings against those responsible if there was enough evidence.

Support for the farmers came yesterday from John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. He said on GMTV's Sunday programme: "The conservative Party does not condone any illegal action. But we quite

sympathise with the strong stance the farmers are taking because they have been pushed beyond the limits by a Government which has failed to negotiate anything for them, a Government which has given away so much to the European government already without asking for anything in return."

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, last night appealed to his members not to alienate public opinion by blocking roads: "The dispute is between ourselves and the Government, and not with farmers abroad", he said.

He will make further contact today with Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, but said: "I am only interested in a meeting if there is something to discuss. There is no point in going to listen to platitudes. I just hope the minister realises how enormously serious the situation is, and how desperately worried farmers are about their future."

Irish farmers yesterday demanded that the British Government and police take tougher action against port protests. Hundreds of farmers from Scotland and northern England picketed Stranraer, the main ferry port in Scotland for traffic from Ireland, saying they planned to stay until this morning.



Farmer supporters cheer an announcement that no agricultural lorries will arrive from abroad at Millbay Docks, Plymouth, on Friday night

How the sense of grievance has grown

By OUR AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BEEF farmers are angry because they feel they have had a raw deal from the Government when compared with other sectors of the agricultural economy, particularly dairy farming.

Welsh farmers' sense of grievance is even sharper because returns from lamb production, their biggest earner, have also dipped sharply, leaving them more exposed to the fall in beef prices triggered by the disclosure last year that "mad cow" disease had probably infected human beings.

There are 70,200 beef farms in

Britain, mostly concentrated in Scotland, Wales and north-west and south-west England. Most are relatively small operators, 60 per cent having fewer than 20 cows. Only 14 per cent have herds with more than 50.

In 1995-96, the latest year for which there are figures, the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that the average net income of cattle and sheep farms in hill areas to be £18,200 in England, £18,400 in Wales and £12,800 in Scotland. Incomes on dairy farms were markedly higher, £36,200 in England, £35,300 in Wales and £33,700 in Scotland. In the year since

these figures were compiled, all farm incomes are estimated to have fallen by up to 47 per cent.

"Our latest calculation is that 60 per cent of farms in upland regions of Wales, which is where 80 per cent of our farmers are found and where beef and sheep farming are the main options, now have an average net income of £10,000 or less", Alan Morris, a spokesman for the Farmers' Union of Wales, said.

Dr Cunningham has made matters worse, farmers say, by reducing the rate of compensation paid to farmers for cattle over the age of 30 months,

which have to be culled and destroyed to keep animals that might develop BSE out of the food chain. Compensation has gradually been reduced from about £400 to £500 an animal, depending on weight in May of last year, to a current maximum of £371, with no distinction between elderly dairy cows and much heavier and more valuable cows from beef herds.

Underlying farmers' problems is the strong pound, which has a bigger impact on agriculture than most other sectors of the economy, and which has eroded the sterling value of EU farm subsidies.

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Prescott seeks solution to wrangle over climate

FROM NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN KYOTO

JOHN PRESCOTT swept into the climate change conference yesterday promising to broker a deal that will save the planet from global warming.

Speaking in Kyoto as thousands of bells were rung across the ancient city in prayer for world leaders and a procession was led from the Kawaramachi Catholic cathedral to the Yasaka shrine, the deputy prime minister said the outline of a deal was emerging despite deep divisions between nations.

Over the weekend negotiators proposed that America and Japan could be allowed to pollute more than the European Union under a scheme known as differentiation. But Mr Prescott said it was out of the question that Europe should be forced to take on more responsibility for halting climate change than other big industrial blocks. "We will not do anything to damage the

competitiveness of our industry," he said.

But Mr Prescott said it was also vital to get an agreement setting legally binding targets for curbing carbon pollution: "We have a responsibility. We hold this world in our hands in trust for our children. I am pushing for victory and refuse to contemplate failure."

The conference, which now hands the final days over to politicians from officials for some solution before the Wednesday deadline, has been stuck on several crucial points. America, whose vice president Al Gore flies in today, has refused to budge from their proposals of merely stabilising gases at 1990 levels by 2010. It claims that acting more drastically now will wreck its economy.

The European Union has been equally fixed on its ambitious target for the industrialised world of 15 per

cent cuts. Meanwhile poorer countries are refusing to offer to back voluntary reduction targets until rich nations agree a deal.

Options which allow flexibility include sinks, where countries with large areas of forests that absorb carbon dioxide, are allowed to count these against emissions from transport, industry and homes. Another could mean rich countries like Britain and America signing a contract with a developing country to instal, say, clean burnt power stations or the planting of new forests.

These schemes would count as carbon credits helping the rich country offset its own domestic emissions at a fraction of the cost of doing the same scheme at home. Countries may also be able to count population growth and their economic output or GDP against their emission target.

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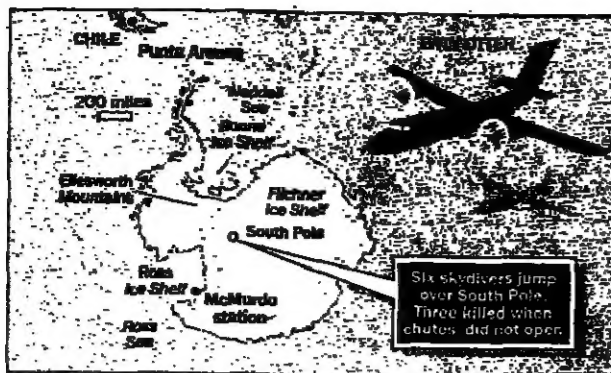
Polar icecaps lured skydivers to deaths

By DANIEL MCGORRY

FOR the six-strong band of accomplished and experienced skydivers, the South Pole represented one of the greatest challenges. The lure to skydive over the icecaps of the great South was irresistible, knowing that only a handful of men had ever dared parachute on to this cruel and beautiful landscape.

All six had jumped over the North Pole, and to succeed at the opposite end of the Earth would have accorded them the right to call themselves part of an elite band of adventurers. Antarctica's remoteness means it remains too expensive and too difficult for most to contemplate making a jump. For eight months they meticulously planned this adventure, regarding the £14,000 fee they each had to pay for a 90-second jump as money well spent.

Mike McDowell of Adventure Network International, who organised their adventure, said last night: "There is no landscape like it — that vast



expanse of pure white terrain and knowing maybe only seven men have ever jumped over this Pole.

"These were not foolish adventurers, but among the very best in their field who wanted to be among a unique breed to jump at both North and South Poles."

As the investigation began last night into how three parachutes failed to open, the experts were asking whether the unusual conditions contributed to the tragedy. The odds of equipment failure of

three chutes were, say the experts, "about the same as winning the lottery twice in a row."

At the Pole the air is thinner and colder so the divers fall marginally faster, but they had calculated the time for their jump. One theory is that they suffered a "white-out". As the entire terrain is flat ice, they could have misjudged how close they were to earth.

"Everything as far as the eye could see would have been white and we will be looking at whether disorientation was

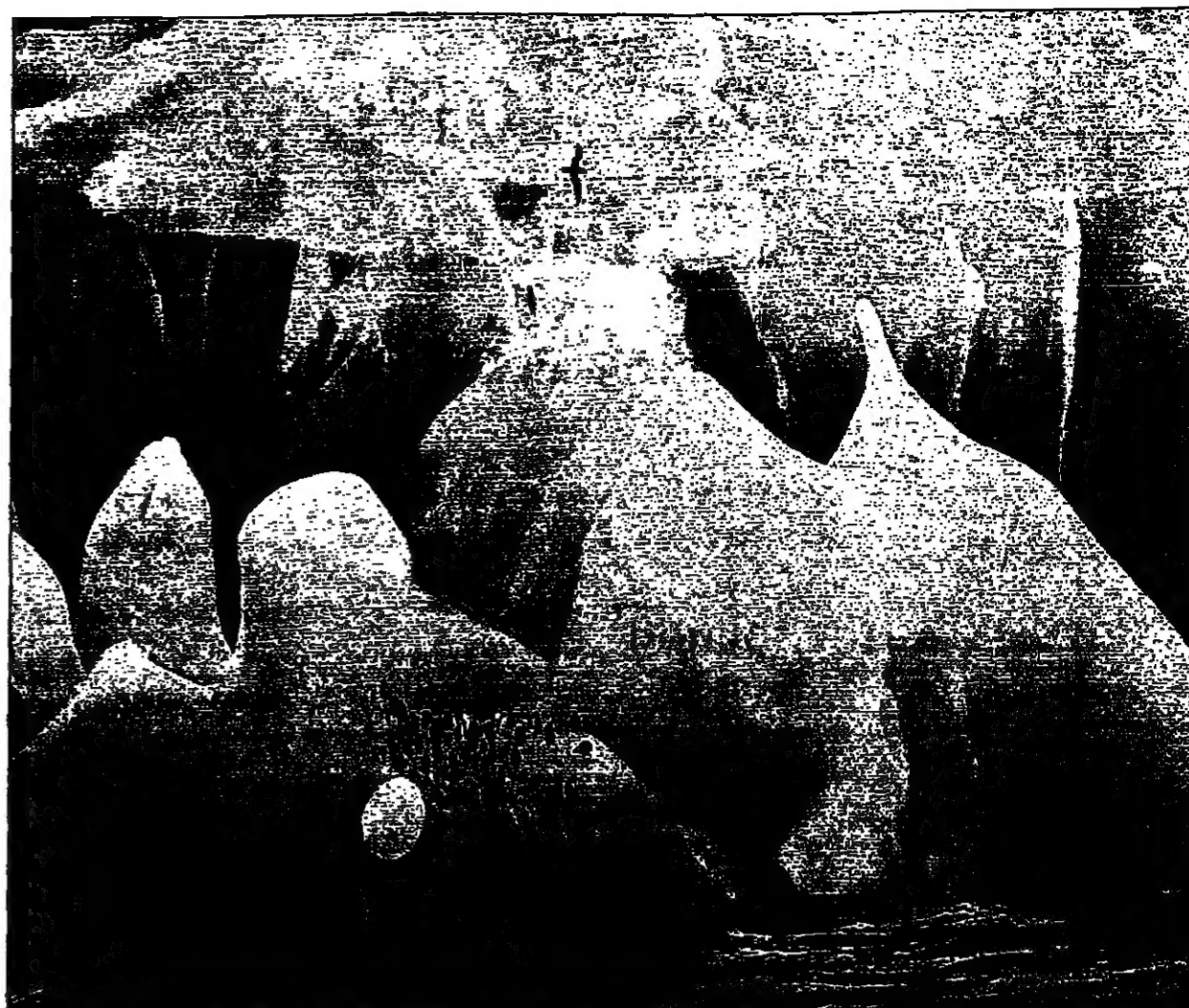
a factor," Mr McDowell said. "It is not known if they were wearing altimeters but they would have known the time of descent."

The temperature was about minus 25C, which is good for this time of the year, and they were well equipped for the cold.

A Hercules aircraft was on its way last night to recover the bodies of the three dead, their equipment and to fly home the survivors whose testimony will be crucial to solving this mystery.

The group had picked their date carefully. The season to visit the South Pole — to mountaineer, ski or just watch the penguins as scores do in increasing numbers each year — runs from October to January. December is favourable if seeking as little wind as possible, which is crucial for a sky dive.

Mr McDowell said: "In 1992 we successfully took a Norwegian to jump over the South Pole. Apart from him, only American military pairs have done it in 1956, 1969 and 1972."



Chinstrap penguins in Antarctica. "There is no landscape like it — that vast expanse of pure white terrain"

Human error causes 90% of accidents

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUMAN error is the likeliest cause of the skydiving deaths in Antarctica. More than 90 per cent of the deaths recorded in a global survey on parachuting in 1991 were the result of human error.

The commonest error is failing to pull the cord to open the parachute or pulling it too late — the "low/no pull" accident. It is the only category of accident to which experienced skydivers are more prone than beginners.

The survey showed that fatalities among parachutists were rare. Of nearly 5 million jumps in 1991, by 250,000 parachutists, there were only 74 fatalities — a rate of one per 65,000 jumps. Three quarters of those who died would have been saved by an automatic activation device (AAD) that triggers the opening of the parachute. Experienced skydivers dislike AADs because they reduce the human element in the sport and because they fear that the activation of the device could cause an accident to a nearby skydiver.

In Russia, which has the longest tradition of sport parachuting, dating from the 1920s, AADs are compulsory. Bryan Burke, safety and training adviser for a sky-

diving company in Arizona, says that the fatality rate there is a tiny fraction of that in the US. "As about two thirds to three quarters of all fatalities are low/no pulls, this makes sense," he says. Experienced skydivers, in his view, are more likely to pull the cord too late because they have become over-confident. The most plausible explanation for yesterday's accident is that the skydivers were less able to perceive their height because of snow below. They had altimeters, but may have ignored them.

A skydiver assesses altitude by working out how much of the picture he sees is occupied by sky, and how much by ground. As the ground becomes an ever-greater part of the picture, he knows from experience when to pull. But if the ground merges with the horizon, this method may fail, and the sky-divers may never have realised how close to the ground they were. "I've talked to a lot of people with low pulls," Mr Burke wrote in an Internet page on skydiving, "and most didn't have a clue they were down to two or three seconds of life expectancy when they finally got a canopy out."

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The Times Christmas Appeal: help a wildlife rescue charity and research into a deadly disease

Each year, *The Times* nominates two charities for its Christmas Appeal, commending them to readers as worthy recipients of their generosity. This year, a foundation that seeks a better deal for animals kept in captivity, and an appeal for an instrument to speed research on a neglected form of cancer are the chosen charities. The Born Free Foundation, named after Joy Adamson's

book, and founded by Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, who played the Adamsons in the 1964 film, campaigns for animals both in captivity and in the wild. Money given by readers will go into a project to rescue and protect animals in many parts of the world. The Everyman appeal of the Institute of Cancer Research aims for a better understanding of a long neglected

disease — prostate cancer — which has received far less attention, and far less money, than other common cancers. The latest understanding of the genetic causes of cancer is opening new windows for screening and treatment. With the help of readers, research at the institute could be accelerated, bringing closer hopes of better treatments.

Team needs £40,000 to fight prostate cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE search for better understanding of a neglected cancer that kills 11,000 men every year is one of the two subjects of this year's *Times* Christmas Appeal.

The Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman appeal needs £40,000 to buy a machine to speed the search for the genes responsible for prostate cancer. Based in Sutton, Surrey, the institute is already responsible for the discovery of an important breast cancer gene, BRCA2.

Ros Eeles and David Dearnaley have launched a nationwide search for prostate cancer genes, with the collaboration of more than 100 specialists at hospitals throughout Britain. They will be looking for families where prostate cancer strikes early, has affected more than three members of the same family, or has affected two close relatives, such as brothers.

The project will also examine large numbers of men with prostate cancer but with no known family history of the disease. In such cases, she explains, "the gene responsible could be common, widely

found in the population, but one which carries only a moderately increased risk. To find such 'low-penetrance' genes we need a large sample."

That, in turn, means a machine that can examine DNA samples quickly. Dr Eeles's team at present uses a gene sequencer that can analyse only one sample at a time. "We need a faster throughput if this project is to get results," she says. The ABI 377 gene sequencer can handle 36 samples at a time, transforming the chances of success.

It costs £87,000, and the institute's appeal hopes that *Times* readers can provide nearly half. The rest will be paid from other sources.

Prostate cancer is the cinderella of cancers. While £16 million is spent on research into breast cancer in Britain, and £40 million into heart disease, prostate cancer receives just £1 million. Yet one man in ten is diagnosed with the disease, and by 2018 the numbers are expected to rise to one in four.

The prostate gland is a chestnut-shaped organ lying below the bladder in men, and

is responsible for forming part of the seminal fluid. At puberty, under the effect of androgen hormones, it grows, but stops at about the age of 20. Further growth often occurs after the age of 50. Prostate cancer, often considered a disease of older men, sometimes develops much earlier, especially in men genetically predisposed to it.

Dr Eeles is looking for two kinds of gene. High-risk genes comparable to BRCA2 sharply increase the risk of contracting the disease, and are likely to show up from the studies of families with a history of prostate cancer. Low-risk genes are likely to be much more common among the general population.

If the genes are found, there should be a chance of screening to detect those at high risk. "If we spot the signs of prostate cancer very early, only a fifth or so will progress to the full disease. If we could find the genes responsible, it would help enormously," Dr Eeles says.

Mind and Matter, page 15
Leading article, page 21



Dr Eeles: needs special machine in search for genes which cause prostate cancer

Born Free group helps animals suffering in captivity

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

IN many zoos around the world, animals are treated more like freak shows than living creatures. The educational and scientific benefits of the good zoos are constantly undermined by the neglectful, apathetic treatment handed out by the bad ones.

The Born Free Foundation is dedicated to improving conditions for animals in captivity. It lobbies against the multimillion pound ivory trade. And it recently transported woolly monkeys from the Amazon to

a Cornish sanctuary. The trend in keeping them as pets had threatened their extinction.

In 1994 the foundation found two lions, Rafi and Anthea, dirty and malnourished, in a cage in a rooftop bar in Tenerife. They were rescued and taken to a sanctuary in Kent and earlier this year, were transported to the Shamwari game reserve near Port Elizabeth in South Africa. Tomorrow the foundation is opening a Wildlife Education Centre at Shamwari, at which Rafi and Anthea, now healthy and roaming in their natural habitat, will be the

guests of honour. Lions have a special place in the history of the Born Free Foundation. The charity was founded by Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna who played George and Joy Adamson in the 1964 film, *Born Free*. Travers moved from acting to become a maker of wildlife documentaries.

In 1984, the couple launched Zoo Check after the death of London Zoo's last African elephant, Pole Pole. It was largely thanks to Zoo Check that the poor quality of life for many zoo animals was brought to light. Its work gradually expanded

until, in 1991, it became the foundation. It is now run by Will Travers, the son of the founders, who said its operations now extend from China and Japan to America, Romania and Egypt. This year, it has persuaded the Cairo zoo to move a polar bear suffering from a skin condition to more temperate Alexandria where its skin instantly improved.

Since 1986, Zoo Check and the foundation have helped lions, tigers, a leopard, dolphins, elephants and primates. On the Isle of Skye it helps to finance a wildlife rescue centre run by the International Otter Sur-

vival Fund. "In human society," Mr Travers says, "we value highly the importance of the individual. We should extend that value system to individual animals, to the solitary lion in the tiny cage, to the single elephant that makes up part of Africa's threatened herds."

Money from this appeal will go to The *Times*/Born Free Animal Rescue and Protection Project to help, among other projects, to find £30,000 for an animal ambulance in the Scottish Highlands, £80,000 for an elephant conservation project in Kenya.

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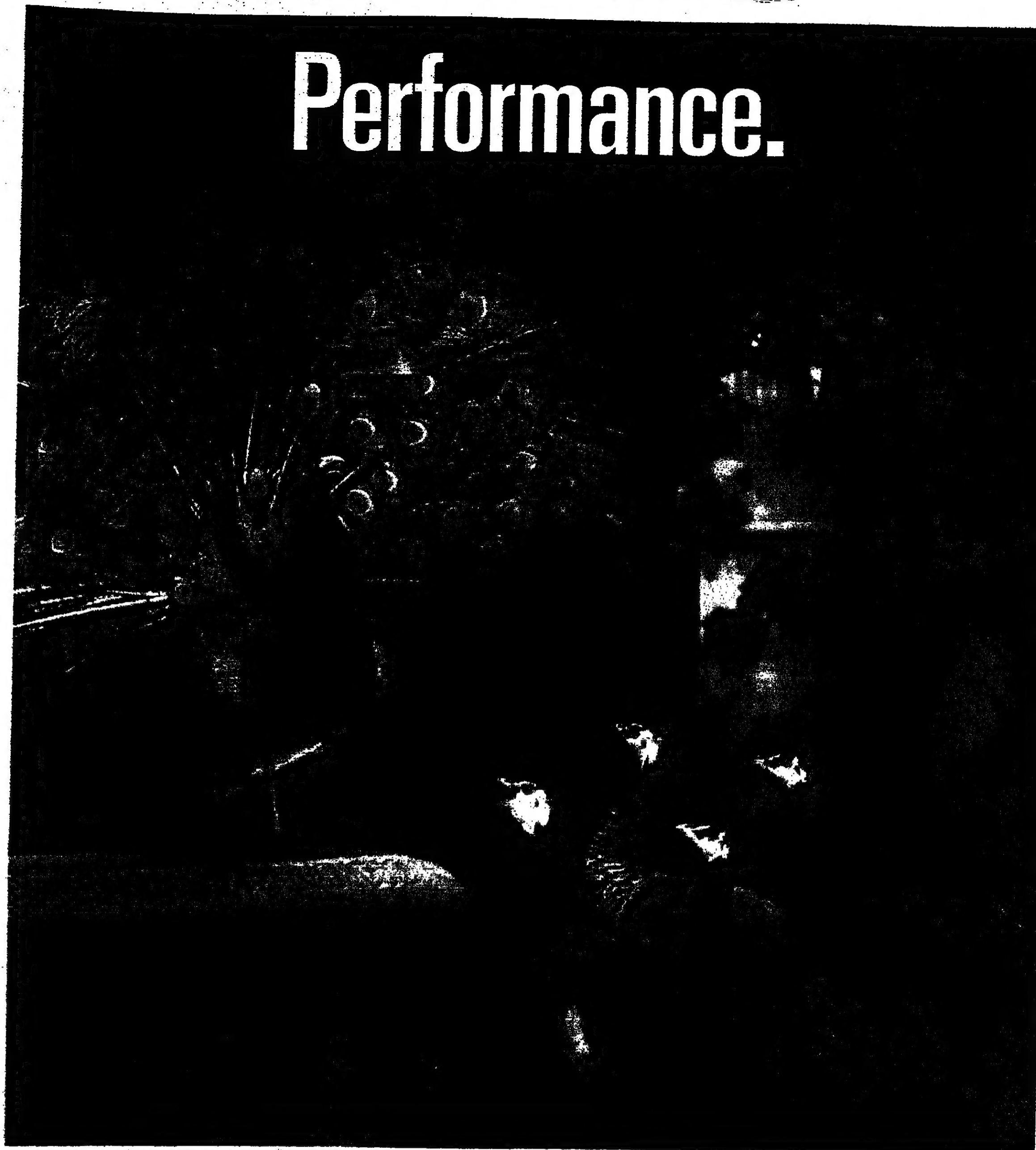
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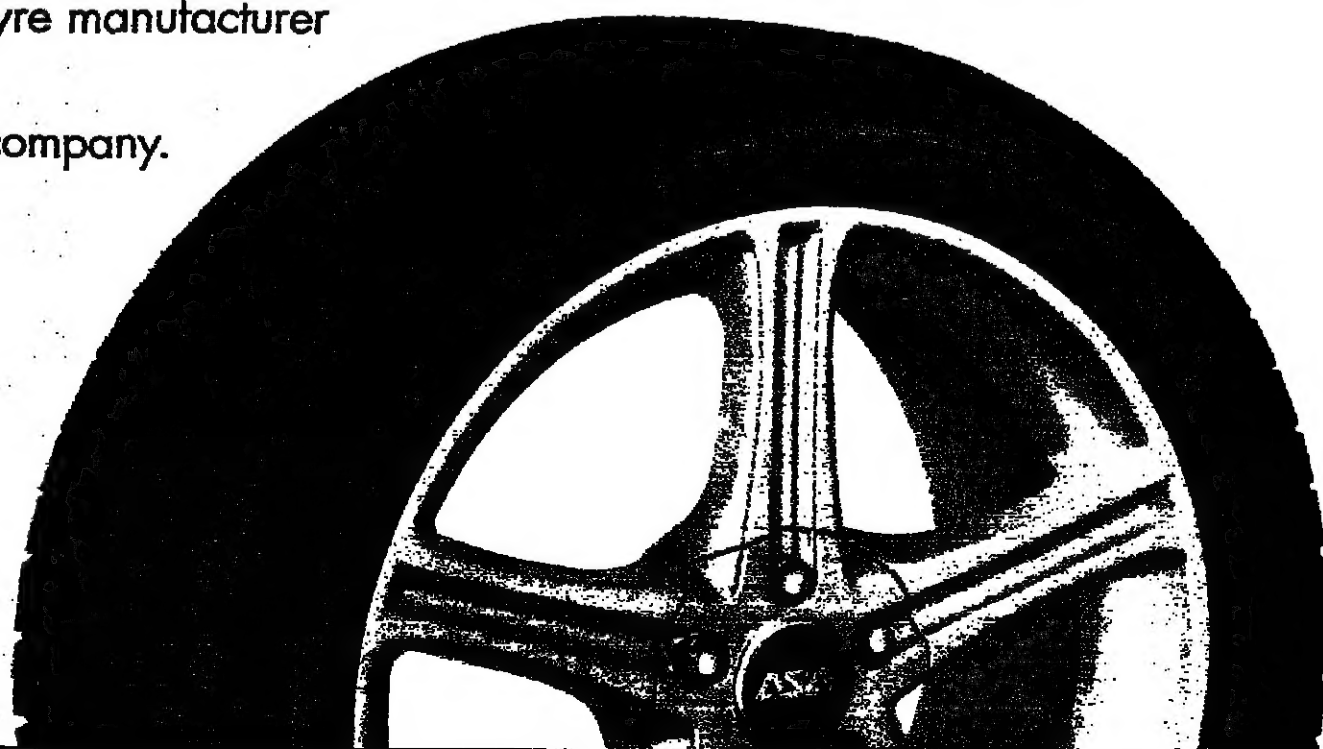
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More may have been infected in CJD case

SURGICAL instruments used to remove the eyes of a woman suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could have infected more transplant recipients, the Government confirmed yesterday.

The move follows claims in *The Sunday Mail* in Scotland that at least six patients may have been infected by instruments used on Marion Hamilton, 53, whose infection with CJD was not known until after her death from lung cancer.

A Scottish Office spokesman said: "The risk of transmission is lower than that from transplantation of eye tissue. However, we have taken expert advice on the level of risk, and the consultants concerned are being contacted. Unless a patient hears from a consultant, there is no need for any individual to worry."

Health guidelines recommend the destruction of instruments after contact with CJD sufferers. The spokesman said the instruments had been destroyed. An inquiry has been launched to investigate how eye tissue from Mrs Hamilton came to be transplanted into three other people. It will be led by Sir William Stewart, a chief scientific adviser to the Cabinet Office from 1990 to 1995. (PA News)

Health chief tries to ease fears after man dies of chicken flu

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

HEALTH officials in Hong Kong are trying to ease fears that a strain of flu previously found only in birds could spread to human beings worldwide. A man aged 54 recently became the second person to die of the infection, and a 13-year-old girl is in hospital.

Flu is notorious for mutating into new strains, which makes vaccination only partly effective. However, the Hong Kong health department deputy director Paul Saw, who is chairing a committee investigating the outbreak, said there was no need for panic.

"There is no evidence that the disease is widespread and we hope that it isn't," he said. Experts from the US Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta and from the World Health Organisation have been asked to help in producing a vaccine against the strain, known as H5N1.

"We are hurrying to make the vaccine because there is a potential for the virus to spread worldwide," Dr Saw said. "The WHO has been asked to alert vaccine production centres in the world with a view to preparing vaccines."

The first case of the new strain appeared in May, when it killed a three-year-old boy in Hong Kong. At the time there was no evidence of spread, and experts hoped that this would prove to be a single isolated case. A boy aged 2 was taken to hospital with a fever



A Hong Kong poultry vendor at work: the strain killed 4,500 chickens. Two infected boys lived near a chicken market

last month, but recovered. Initial findings did not show that the four cases shared a common source, nor was the virus transmitted by any one of the victims to the others, Dr Saw said. Specimens from the two latest patients have been sent to the American centre in Atlanta.

Investigators have taken their search for the source of

the virus to China and have been checking poultry farms across Hong Kong. Among domestic poultry, the strain can cause lethal fowl plague.

About 4,500 chickens are known to have died from H5N1 at three farms in Hong Kong in April. The two boys first infected with the strain lived near a chicken market. The one who died used to play

in an area where poultry was bred.

Ken Shortridge, a microbiologist working with investigators, said that farmers in areas of southern China bordering Hong Kong had been found to carry antibodies for the strain while not displaying symptoms. This perhaps indicated longstanding infections to which they had developed

resistance. In October a team of specialists warned that the strain must be closely monitored.

They said: "We feel that the identification of the H5N1 influenza A virus and its presently unknown pandemic potential should be the basis of an intensive monitoring by the international WHO influenza surveillance network."

Teacher families at greater risk of leukaemia

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN of teachers are more likely to develop leukaemia than those whose fathers are in any other occupation, according to research published today. The reason is because of teachers' exposure to infections at school.

The study also shows an increased risk for children whose fathers work in sales, transport, construction, and service jobs.

The findings, by Leo Kinlen, from the Cancer Research Campaign epidemiology unit at Oxford, are based on five earlier studies made in rural areas linking a high rate of childhood leukaemias to the make-up of the population.

The new research supports the theory that an unidentified infection increases children's susceptibility to leukaemia. Dr Kinlen pioneered the idea that when people from different parts of the country work in rural areas they may be exposed to new infections.

The most comprehensive survey of childhood leukaemia, published two months ago in the *British Medical Journal*, also supported that theory. It showed conclusively that there was a higher incidence of leukaemia among children whose fathers work at atomic power stations but that that had nothing to do with exposure to radiation. The conclusion was that it was caused by people from all over the country coming in close contact and catching infec-

tions to which they were unused.

The new research, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, reasons that people working with children are more exposed to infections because children are more susceptible to infections than adults. Men working in construction and transport industries are more vulnerable because they often work away from home, where they are exposed to different infections.

For the study Dr Kinlen compared the expected number of children with leukaemia aged up to 14 with the actual number of cases found among those with fathers in different occupations. He found that those who came in contact with a lot of people through their work had a significantly greater risk of their children developing cancer.

"This is important because it is the first piece of evidence based on data from individuals to support the theory of an underlying infection linked to childhood leukaemia," Dr Kinlen said. "It also further supports the role of adults in transmitting this infection."

Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "If we can prove an underlying infection does increase children's risk of childhood leukaemia it could open the door for the future identification of that infection and even vaccination against it."

Hospital reconsiders use of tags after baby's abduction

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

MANAGERS at Basildon Hospital are reviewing whether they should issue new-born babies with electronic security tags after the abduction of baby Karli.

In the past, nursing staff and doctors had preferred to rely on the vigilance of staff. But as employees continued to be questioned about the abduction on Friday, a spokesman for the hospital said that managers were considering all options.

A 33-year-old woman with three children is to appear before magistrates this morning charged with abduction. Denise Giddings, from Langdon Hills, Basildon, remained in custody yesterday after being charged at 6pm on Saturday in the presence of her solicitor.

Karli and her mother, Tanya Hawthorne, 30, stayed at the hospital yesterday and are likely to be discharged on

Wednesday. Yesterday two police officers were standing guard in Willow ward and a third officer was stationed at the entrance to the unit. They will leave when the Hawthornes are discharged.

Pat Trinnaman, a spokeswoman for the hospital, said that security at the unit had worked in that nurses were immediately alerted, and were probably alerted earlier than if the baby had worn a tag which would have activated only when the child passed through the door.

"But obviously we have to look at the issue of tags again, along with all other security issues. It is difficult to get the right balance because if someone is determined then it is very hard to stop them. The only total security would be to have no visitors at all."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health, said that Frank Dobson, the

Health Secretary, had asked for a report on the incident but was confident that the guidelines issued in 1995 after the abduction of Abbie Humphries were sufficient. "However, he will take the report very seriously and see if there are any further recommendations we can make," she said.



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مكتبة الأهل

Bends return as rivers get rid of dire straights

IT WAS the heyday of tower blocks and new towns, when planners believed that they were laying the foundations of a brave new world. What few noticed during the 1950s and 1960s was that they were also turning rivers into little more than canals.

A complex landscape little changed since Constable painted *The Hay Wain* was being transformed as successive governments determined that Britain should never again suffer the food shortages of the Second World War. Brooks which once meandered gently through meadows, and flooded every winter, were straightened and tamed, allowing flood plains to be reclaimed for crops. Where once a river flowed was now little more than a large ditch filled with sluggish muddy water. In towns, rivers were channelled into pipes or concrete behind factories. Flora and fauna inevitably suffered. This week the bends are being

Changes made by planners in past 50 years are on way out, Simon de Bruxelles says

put back into the River Avon at Melksham in Wiltshire, after engineers conceded that attempts to improve on nature had not worked. The Avon is the latest in a series of projects across the country attempting to undo the damage done to Britain's rivers in the past 50 years.

At Melksham the Avon looks more like a canal than a river. It was channelled into a straightjacket of steel and concrete in the 1960s when a series of "improvements" up-

stream increased the risk of flooding. The work is being carried out by the Environment Agency with £600,000 from Sainsbury's, which earlier this year opened a supermarket on the river's former flood plain. The restoration of the half-mile stretch of river was a condition of permission to build the store.

Three flat shelves called berms are being built in the river channel to make the river meander and to speed up the flow of water. The berms will then be edged with coir matting studded with plants such as rush, iris and sedge which all but vanished when the river was straightened.

Shoals, riffles and eddy pools will reappear and the faster-flowing water will keep the river and banks from silting up. As the vegetation re-establishes itself, fish and other wildlife will return, finding new habitats in shaded, shallow pools where there is now little more than mud and

deep water. Ann Skinner, the Environment Agency's project manager, said: "There is an economic benefit besides the environmental one. We are restoring a self-sustaining system that looks after itself without too much intervention. Once a river has been returned to a more natural

state it is amazing how quickly nature completes the restoration."

The River Restoration Project, a non-profit-making organisation formed three years ago and partly funded by the European Union, has so far completed two experimental schemes, one rural

and one urban. The River Skerne in Darlington, Durham, was little more than an open drain carrying water out of town between tips of industrial waste until it was transformed by the project. Meanders were put in and a riverside park created. At the National Trust-owned

Coleshill estate near Swindon, the river course and flood plains had been altered by man many times during the past 900 years. The Cole had been straightened to form a mill stream, and dredging 25 years ago removed the clay river bed and lowered the water table. Water meadows

alongside the river had dried out and the river was sluggish and unexciting.

Now the original meanders have been recut and the river restored to life. The flood plains are working again and the Trust intends to re-establish fringing meadows, only fragments of which survive.



The Skerne was little more than an open drain until the intervention of the River Restoration Project. Meanders were put in and a park created

Traffic wardens on charm offensive

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRAFFIC wardens are to be trained to use charm rather than aggression when dispensing parking tickets. They will also be taught how to apprehend irate motorists when the friendly approach fails.

A prospectus for a new National Vocational Qualification sets out lessons on "interpersonal skills", and staff will be encouraged to offer advice to motorists.

The move comes as many local authorities allow private companies to take on ticketing. The training has been developed by the Security Industry Training Organisation with funding from the Government and the British Parking Association, and the first candidates will be accepted in the new year.

Alasdair Macmillan, of the Association, said: "There is a certain amount of aggression from the public which has to be dealt with professionally. It has to be toned down rather than allowed to escalate. Language and body language has to be non-threatening."

Edmund King, of the RAC, said that some heavy-handed "jobsworths" were more interested in dishing out tickets than educating drivers about the dangers of illegal parking. Some of these privatised attendants have got a lot to learn about how to react to the motorist when there is the potential for confrontation, he said. The uniforms worn by many of the South American para-military uniforms which make for confrontation. The majority of motorists are reasonable and the attendant can explain in a pleasant way why the ticket has been issued.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Robocop' clears his office

Ray Mallon, the superintendent who pioneered "zero-tolerance" policing in Cleveland, cleared his office yesterday following his suspension for alleged activity which could be construed as criminal. The man nicknamed Robocop said: "That is a monstrous slur. I cannot comment on the inquiry but I have nothing to hide. My family and I have been overwhelmed by messages of support."

Duchess's deal

The Duchess of York has reportedly signed a new one-year contract worth £1.25 million to promote the Weight Watchers diet. The *New York Post* said her appearances in commercials had led to a big rise in business.

Smoke warning

People were warned to stay indoors as smoke from a blazing warehouse at an industrial estate on Canvey Island, Essex, enveloped their homes. The fire was believed to have been started deliberately.

Boy's moat fall

Matthew Rayner, 5, of St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, fell 15ft into the moat of Bodiam Castle, where he had been visiting Father Christmas, after his brother pushed him through a window. Two visitors rescued him.

Cabbage squad

Students are to abseil down cliffs this month at Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, to clear away rhododendrons whose spread is threatening the miniature flowering Lundy Cabbage, which is listed as an endangered vegetable.

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British suspicions deepen as Yeltsin makes mischief with Kohl

Boris Yeltsin has been up to his old tricks in Scandinavia. Last week, in another ill-starred trip abroad, he made an offer to cut naval forces in the Baltic that surprised even his own high command. His stumbling political style, however, concealed the real geopolitical intent: to separate Baltic security from the rest of Western Europe.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Russia has been playing this game in different regions since 1992 — some would say for centuries — according to a scheme refined by Yevgeni Primakov, first as KGB chief, then as Foreign Minister. To splinter the West is regarded as the only sensible counter-

country from superpower to a regional Euro-Asiatic power. His phrases smack of Tsarist positional diplomacy.

That is why Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, should step with caution in his much vaunted friendship with Mr Yeltsin. So far the Chancellor has carefully paced this relationship. At the bilateral summit in Baden-Baden last April — the 75th anniversary of the Treaty of Rapallo — Mr Yeltsin suggested a strategic partnership between the two countries. Wisely, the German leader declined and explained that he did not want to be an interpreter between Russia and the West. The Russians

started to complain about how Germany was letting them down: not enough help in making Nato enlargement attractive to the Russians, slow progress in the opening of European markets and sluggish German investment. This was unfair but touched on an essential truth: Germans no longer want anything much from the Russians, apart from peace.

To advance the Russo-German friendship, Bonn concluded, it was necessary to broaden its base. Jacques Chirac was recruited. There are now to be regular Franco-German-Russian summits. The point

of incorporating France was to reassure Central Europe that the era of Russo-German continental carve-ups has passed. Instead, suspicions have deepened. For the British, the triangle is a sign of European foreign policy still being driven by the Franco-German axis, that the trend remains one of exclusion.

Mr Yeltsin delights in sowing such mistrust. Once, at a dinner attended by West European heads of government, he whispered into Herr Kohl's ear: "Helmut, I don't think they like me very much." The seductive message — a friend Helmut enjoys a special relationship

Soon enough M Chirac will step into that sauna, too and will, like Herr Kohl, be flattered. The Franco-German partnership has thus become part of Russia's regional strategy.

The Americans are as dismayed as the British. If Germany no longer wants much from Russia, why construct special relationships in competition with Washington? A short essay, "Life After Kohl", in the latest issue of *Foreign Affairs* argues that a common approach to Russia should bond Germany and the US at a time of transatlantic drift. "Germany's concentration on moving European integration ahead, and Amer-

ican attention to Latin America, the Middle East, the Pacific Rim, and now Central Asia — areas where the interests of Germany, a regional European power, are minor — mean that the US and the Federal Republic will work together less frequently."

Robert Gerald Livingston, one of Washington's top German experts, sees the US and Germany as natural allies on policy towards Moscow. Their interest in the regions are congruent. They both are keenly aware of the need to take account of Russia's security interests... Germany,

in other words, should not try to shape a Russian policy without America.

German critics of this column complain that its logic is often drawn from a past era: containment, expansion, encirclement, all the Kaiser-words. They are only partly right. Germany has a special position and generates special anxieties. Britain is wary of Germany's European plans in the West; Russia of Germany's reach in the East. These may seem like 19th-century categories, but they still apply. The time has come for Britain to develop a coherent European Union strategy on Russia that can hold up in the 21st century.

Madrid to propose 'two-flag' plan for Gibraltar

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SPAIN is to propose that Britain takes a 99-year lease on Gibraltar, after London climbed down over its threatened veto of Spanish integration in Nato's military command.

As Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, prepares for talks in London on Wednesday with Angel Matutes, his Spanish counterpart, Spanish sources have revealed that their Government is ready to unveil a new plan for joint sovereignty to make London and Madrid jointly responsible for the Rock until it reverts to Spanish control in the next century.

To sweeten the package, Spain will suggest social benefits, political rights and economic inducements to persuade inhabitants of the Rock to accept the plan. It promises to give the 30,000 Gibraltarians more say over their future and access to far more money — 10 special funds than they now enjoy as a British dependency.

However, Spain made clear it will use both stick and carrot. If Gibraltarians are "obstinate", Spain will toughen the already difficult border controls, Señor Matutes said in a newspaper interview yesterday. British officials dismissed any suggestion of shared sovereignty, saying

that the Spanish plan was completely unacceptable and that if Spain tried to bully Gibraltar again, there would be a sharp British reaction.

Last week a Bill was introduced in the Commons proposing to give Gibraltar the right to elect its own MP to Westminster. It would integrate Gibraltar with Britain and give it the same political rights as any part of the United Kingdom. Such a plan would provoke fury in Madrid.

Spain admits that its two-flag plan is not new, saying it was first put to James Callaghan when he was Prime Minister in 1979. But it claims that the package is now worth far more to Gibraltarians.

Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, said during a recent visit to London that he would press Britain to end the Rock's colonial status by making it a crown dependency, similar to Jersey or the Isle of Man.

Mr Cook said he would give Mr Caruana's proposal "a fair wind", but British officials made clear they would not do anything to upset Madrid. Spanish sources said the proposal was unacceptable but Madrid has few hopes that Britain will endorse its own plan.



Rescue workers search through the wreckage of the huge Antonov-124 military transport plane that crashed into flats in the Siberian town of Irkutsk at the weekend

Russia grounds cargo flights after 70 die in crash

FROM RICHARD BERTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday grounded all flights of its Antonov-124 military transport aircraft after one of the huge cargo planes ploughed into a Siberian city at the weekend, killing about 70 people.

As hundreds of rescue workers continued to comb the devastated site of the crash in the city of Irkutsk, the

Ministry of Defence said that all flights had been suspended until it had established what had caused the disaster on Saturday.

According to reports from the area, some 3,000 miles east of Moscow, the cargo plane had only been in the air for about 20 seconds when the crew reported that two of the four engines had failed.

The plane, which was on its way to Vietnam carrying two Sukhoi-27

fighter jets, had only climbed a few hundred feet when it belly-flopped onto a residential area close to the military airbase.

"I looked outside and saw the plane descending, leaning to one side, getting lower and lower," said one elderly witness. "I felt a shudder go through me and I felt awful. Then I heard a bang and all my doors and windows blew open."

The plane, more than 200ft long

and with a wingspan of 220ft, was carrying 110 tonnes of aviation fuel which exploded on impact, setting apartment blocks and a nearby orphanage on fire and sending huge chunks of fuselage flying into surrounding buildings. Galina Dmitrova, one of the first rescue workers at the scene, said: "There was fire. There were no people. Nothing but flames."

Fortunately, most of the residents

were away from their homes at the time of the accident. Among the dead were 23 people on the aircraft and 24 residents, including two children from the orphanage.

At least 13 people, including eight children, were taken to hospital suffering severe burns. Another 24 people were listed as missing, although the rescue services said that there was no chance of finding any more survivors.

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'Pensioner spy' fooled Mossad for ten years

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MOSSAD, Israel's secret service, was further discredited yesterday with disclosures that it wrongly assessed Iraq's nuclear potential and that for nearly a decade it was misled by one of its own spies about Syria's strategic goals.

The latest scandals have come while a government committee is still investigating Mossad's hopelessly bungled attempt on September 25 to poison Khaled Meshal, the leader of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Jordan.

Israel's Channel 2 television network revealed that last year Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, mistakenly informed the US Government that Iraq was much closer to having nuclear weapons capability than it was.

The false Israeli report was only exposed when it was challenged by the Americans, who had their own intelligence showing that Iraq's acquisition of nuclear weapons was not as imminent as Mr Netanyahu claimed. He was relying on a briefing given to him by Uzi Arad, a high-ranking Mossad agent who is now his political adviser.

In the Iraqi affair, Mossad had pretended to have had

information from sources in Baghdad that did not exist. Israeli commentators pointed out that, had there not been a sharp counter-assertion by the CIA, the false Mossad report on the Baghdad regime's nuclear capability could have prompted a similar pre-emptive strike to that launched by Israeli warplanes against the Iraqi Osirak reactor in 1981.

Details of the latest scandal were broadcast just as Israelis were attempting to digest the almost farcical details of the lengthy deception over Syria perpetrated by veteran agent Yehuda Gil, 63, who nearly led the Israeli Army into war against the Syrians last year by misleading his superiors about the motive for Syrian troop deployments.

The Tel Aviv District Court lifted an earlier ban and allowed Israeli papers to report that Mr Gil had continued to fool Mossad even after his retirement and that he is alleged to have pocketed about \$200,000 in cash to pay off his non-existent sources.

Mr Gil, who concocted his false reports at home in the sleepy Israeli town of Gedera, south of Tel Aviv, is due to go on trial on December 17. The charges against him include

transmission of material with the intent to harm state security, theft by a civil servant and the submission of false information purporting to have originated from foreign sources. He has become known as "the pensioner spy" because Mossad continued to use his false information after his retirement in 1989.

To add to Mossad's humiliation over the Gil affair, it was disclosed yesterday that the Libyan-born spy once served as a permanent instructor at the Mossad college near the Israeli seaside town of Herzliya, teaching cadets a special course, "The Lie as Art".

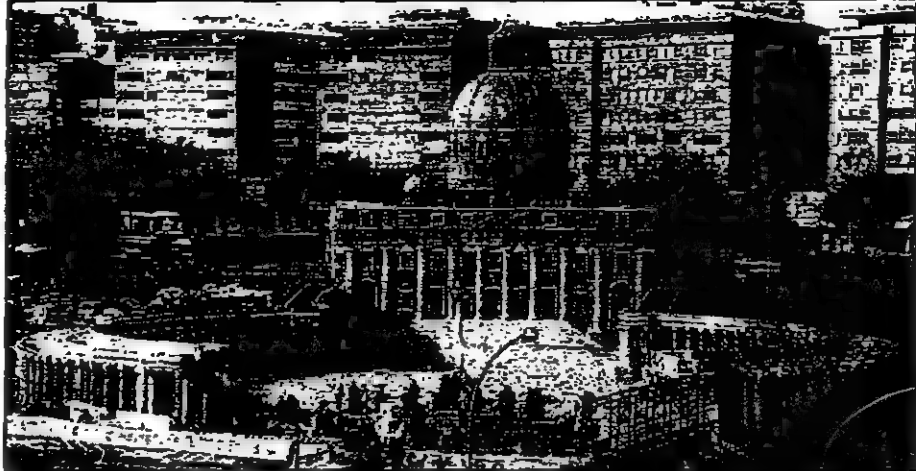
The motive for Mr Gil's deception is not clear. Fluent in Arabic, French and Italian, he was revealed yesterday to have been a former leading figure in the far-right Molodet Party, which advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and opposes even minimal territorial compromise with the Arabs.

The disclosure prompted speculation that Mr Gil's concocted reports might have been aimed at discouraging Israeli leaders from making peace with Arab countries, particularly Syria.



Liquid assets build basilica

Charity workers, endorsed by the Pope, used ten million drinks cans to build this replica of St Peter's Basilica, opened at the weekend. The 97m-high model on Rome's outskirts is a fifth the size of the real building. The 40 volunteers for blood and organ donor charities hope to raise money by auctioning the aluminium when the replica is dismantled next month. (Reuters)



Balearics millionaires keep Spanish King afloat

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

THE problem of how to replace King Juan Carlos of Spain's royal yacht, the *Fortuna*, has been solved by a group of millionaires who are clubbing together to buy him a new one.

The offer by 25 millionaires from the Balearic Islands brings to an end a five-year saga over the ocean-going royal yacht, which had taken to breaking down in embarrassing circumstances. Some of the King's guests,

including the Prince of Wales, have found themselves being towed back to port by fishing boats after the 150ft *Fortuna's* engines blew.

In 1992 the King ordered a new *Fortuna* to be built at a Spanish shipyard. But when the budget spiralled out of control, he decided it was best to sell the new vessel and keep patching up the old one.

Mario Conde, a banker and then owner of the shipyard, tried to give the 66 million yacht to the King as a present, but it was refused. The gift

would eventually have proved a huge embarrassment for the King, as Señor Conde is now on trial for allegedly robbing his bank's customers of up to £50 million.

The millionaires from the Mediterranean islands of Majorca, Minorca and Ibiza have overcome the problem of gift-giving by forming a special charity which will pay the £12 million cost of the new *Fortuna*. The vessel will be owned by the state but used by the King.

"It is a way of thanking Juan Carlos

and the Royal Family for the positive publicity that their frequent visits to the islands brings us," said Gabriel Barcelo, one of the millionaires who will each donate £500,000. Most of them have made their fortunes from tourism.

Spain's Royal Family spends the summer holidays at the Miravet palace in Palma de Mallorca.

The King will receive the donors at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid on Thursday, when they will formally offer to buy the new vessel.

Mugabe to close farmers' judicial loophole

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT MUGABE announced that he would not allow white farmers to take the Government to court over his planned mass expropriation of land begun ten days ago with the promulgation of a list of nearly 1,500 farms for "forcible acquisition".

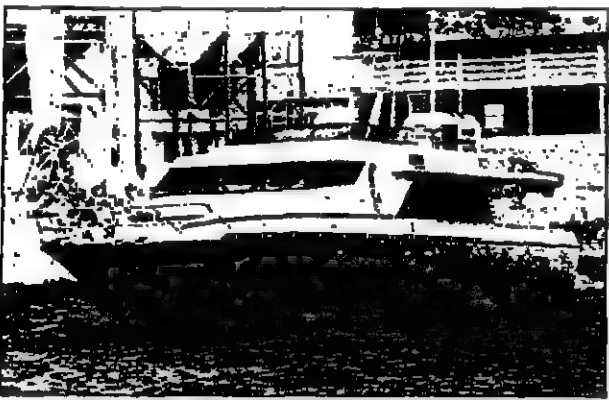
The Zimbabwean leader told the annual "people's conference" of his ruling Zanu PF party at the weekend that the controversial confiscation was "a political decision" and it would not help white farmers "to drag the Government to court".

Farmers regard the legal system as one of the few avenues of appeal. The farms officially listed — after being chosen by Zanu party officials — cover 45 per cent of commercial farmland, of which about 85 per cent is fully productive. The Government has no apparent means to compensate the owners.

"This is not a matter for the courts to decide," President Mugabe said. "It was not a matter for the courts to decide when our ancestors lost their land to white settlers. Where were the courts at that time? Why did they not intervene?"

He did not indicate at what point he would block their legal challenge. The law, under which the expropriation is being carried out, provides for an automatic review of a confiscation by the administrative court, a junior division of the High Court, which also has powers to quash the acquisitions. Farmers also have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Yesterday Zimbabwe bishops urged the Government to ensure fairness and justice and allow the farmers to appeal to the courts. They said: "No citizen can legally be prevented from appealing to the courts as neutral arbiters, whatever the issue might be."

The ocean-going but unreliable royal yacht *Fortuna*

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Mr and Mrs Allen are aged 28 and 27 and live in Liverpool. They have two children who are at school. James (13) and Sophie (10) who are attending the state school. This year Mr Allen has been promoted and Mrs Allen a colleague has left. The Allens are attracted to the flexibility of a Personal Choice Mortgage and the five remortgage package because Mrs Allen is going to become self-employed and want their home, retaining several features, to remain theirs.

By transferring a mortgage of £70,000 against a property value of £120,000 they will be able to increase and decrease their monthly payments, take payment holidays and repay lump sums from time to time depending on how well Mrs Allen is doing. They also intend to use their cheque book facility to help Sarah when she goes up to University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 28 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends staying for a while in Oxford while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies. The five remortgage package and not having to provide income information were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

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مكتبة النمل

THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 8 1997

New-look Iran seeks to woo wary Saudis

Tehran is playing the model moderate host, writes Michael Theodoulou

ALMOST two decades after Iran threatened to export its Shia Islamic revolution to the Middle East, Tehran is making peace with its Saudi enemy in an attempt to challenge American influence.

Such as the degree of hatred to the late Ayatollah Khomeini declared ten years ago that Iran might one day be able to forgive President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, but never forgive the Saudi Arabia, whose overthrow he demanded repeatedly.

But today, 18 years after the spiritual leader sent alarm bells ringing around the predominantly Sunni Muslim Arab world, King Fahd's brother, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, along with many of Iran's former enemies who supported Saudi Arabia's eight-year war against "Persian cockroaches", will fly to Tehran to attend a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

For Tehran, the biggest gathering of Islamic leaders in the city since the 1979 revolution represents a chance to repair its tarnished international image and advance its goal to be the regional

powerbroker. The fact that not one of the 55 member states of the OIC has boycotted the summit has delighted Iranian leaders, who see it as proof that America's attempts to isolate the Islamic republic have failed.

Iranian commentators contrasted the turnout with the large-scale boycott of last month's American-sponsored Middle East economic summit in Qatar. The princes and presidents visiting Iran will be greeted by images of a less threatening country and one that is keen to demonstrate a pragmatic foreign policy under President Khatami, the moderate leader who said recently: "First comes Iran, then Islam."

A European diplomat said:

"The Gulf Arabs are encouraged by Khatami, with even the most conservative state willing to give Iran a chance. Of course, they will want to see results."

Perhaps, in deference to their sensitivities, Iran is also making amends. The slogan "Down with America", once prominently displayed in every hotel lobby, is nowhere to be seen in five-star establishments that have undergone expensive refurbishments for what is being labelled as the "summit of the century". Although satellite dishes are officially banned, hotels are accommodating the 5,000 or so guests have access to the Atlanta-based CNN.

Outside the new marbled conference centre hangs a huge poster depicting the stern face of Ayatollah Khomeini and adorned with a slogan, "Islam humiliates and downgrades the superpowers". But with just one remaining superpower, it has an anachronistic ring. Moreover, Iran has since fostered close diplomatic ties with Russia.

Whether Iran succeeds in improving ties with its suspicious Arab neighbours will depend to an extent on the outcome of a power struggle between conservative and moderate factions in Tehran, triggered by Mr Khatami's landslide election victory in May over a hardline candidate, a hardline newspaper, *Jonhouni Islami*, at the weekend advocated strict adherence to Khomeini's radical brand of "revolutionary Islam" as the only way to make the summit a success. But Kamal Kharrazi, the Foreign Minister, dismissed that view as "far from the position of the Government".



A Tehran mural depicts "satanic powers" trying to destroy Islam. But if Iran has toned down its rhetoric



A Serbian child puts his grandfather's vote in a Belgrade ballot box yesterday

Serbia heads for election run-off

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

SERBS voted yesterday for the third time in as many months in an attempt to break the constitutional deadlock in a country already in economic and social crisis.

Last month Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist, came close to replacing Slobodan Milosevic, who now occupies the supposedly more ceremonial

role of Yugoslav President. Victory was denied him only because the turnout was a few thousand short of the required 50 per cent.

Mr Seselj's homespun recipe of xenophobia, hard work and discipline is an increasingly attractive proposition for a people desperate to escape poverty, gangsterism and chaos. Mr Seselj and Milan Milutinovic, his Socialist rival, were ahead in the

seven-man field, and another run-off in two weeks' time was expected.

□ Sarajevo: International monitors said Bosnian Serb nationalists loyal to Radovan Karadzic, indicted for alleged war crimes, lost ground in last month's elections to the Western-backed President Plavsic and failed to secure a majority. (Reuters)

Robin Cook, page 20

WORLD IN BRIEF

Houston elects its first black mayor

Washington: Lee Brown, President Clinton's former drugs czar and a former New York City police commissioner yesterday became the first black Mayor of Houston, Texas, after a tight race (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Brown, 60, defeated Rob Mosbacher, 46, a wealthy local oilman, by a margin of just 4 per cent after a late surge among black voters. He had deliberately avoided making race an issue in the campaign, but the theme was rarely below the surface in a city where two thirds of the 1.8 million population is black or Hispanic. The campaign had drawn luminaries to both sides with President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore endorsing Mr Brown, while former President Bush backed the Republican candidate.

Cambodians in peace rally

Phnom Penh: Sam Rainsy, the opposition politician, staged a mass demonstration in the Cambodian capital for peace, drawing thousands of people (Caroline Gluck writes). Buddhist monks and soldiers, including amputees in wheelchairs or using crutches, marched along a four-mile route to a pagoda on Phnom Penh's outskirts. The last rally staged by Mr Rainsy in March was ended by a grenade attack, which left at least 16 dead and more than 100 injured. The march was given government permission after organisers agreed to reroute it away from the heart of the city.

Basque banks attacked

San Sebastian: Hooded youths attacked three bank branches with petrol bombs in overnight incidents of violence in northern Spain's Basque region after the imprisonment of 23 members of Herri Batasuna, a Basque independence party, police reported yesterday. Two bank offices in the town of Azpeitia and another in the coastal city of San Sebastian were damaged in the attacks, which followed others carried out in the region on Saturday. (AP)

Turks bomb Kurd rebels

Diyarbakir: Turkish jets have launched bombing raids on Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrilla positions in northern Iraq. A military official said two F16s took off from Diyarbakir airport to attack rebels in the Khavakurk area. Earlier, 10,000 Turkish troops crossed the border to join an Iraqi Kurdish group and thousands of Turkish soldiers already campaigning against the PKK in Iraq. (Reuters)

Anti-polio battle launched

An Indian baby receives polio vaccine from a health worker in Delhi as India's Prime Minister, launched the last phase of an anti-polio campaign aimed at immunising 125 million children. He administered vaccine to 22 children in Assam and called for the disease to be stamped out within two years. (AFP)



Dogs killed in truffle war

Perugia: Two skilled truffle dogs were killed by poison as a war between hunters of the fungi in central Italy intensified. The Ansa news agency said. More than 30 valuable dogs, which sniff out the black and white truffles, have been killed by strychnine since the start of the season in October. Truffles can fetch more than £1,800 a lb. (Reuters)

African killer butterflies threaten to wipe out Spanish geraniums

FROM GERTREUD LITTLE IN MADRID

THE geranium, which decorates balconies and plots across Spain, is in danger of being wiped out by a plague of African butterflies.

Cacyreus marshalli, the geranium

bronze, has already decimated the flowers on Majorca. Scientists say it has now crossed to mainland Spain and will sweep across the country in a few years. The butterfly, which is brown with white wingtips, comes from South Africa and is believed to have reached Majorca in imported

geraniums in 1987. While its numbers in Africa are controlled by predators, it has no natural enemy in Spain. "It is impossible to eradicate," said Alberto Masó, a botanist. Gardeners and hoteliers in Majorca are already replacing geraniums with other plants. The butterflies' larvae and caterpillars destroy the plants by eating into their buds. Eggs are often injected directly into the buds, allowing them to be devoured from the inside. Only the application of a strong insecticide every two weeks can save the plants, although even this is difficult when the larvae

are inside the buds. Geraniums are big business in Spain and the nation's most popular ornamental plant. Some ten million plants are grown for sale every year. Experts say the butterflies have been found in Rome and will spread in southern Europe.

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Poached, lunched and published

Literary agents are now the new wheeler-dealers, says Janine di Giovanni

I have just seen Oliver Stone's *Wall Street* for the tenth time since it was released in the 1980s. Watching it, I had a pang of longing for the richness of those days. All those shoulder pads, those Armani suits, those million-pound deals being clinched in a single telephone conversation. It makes one wonder where all that wheeler-dealing, fast-track life has gone. Has it disappeared into the caring, sharing 1990s? Or worse, has it succumbed to what this month's issue of *Tatler* says is the buzzword of the decade: tenderness?

No, because somewhere on this planet, there are canny wheeler-dealers, but they no longer exist in the City. The Gordon Gekkos of the 1990s are literary agents. Frantic book auctions — such as the selling of this year's Booker winner Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, or a recent auction of the first novel of 22-year-old Zadie Smith — are more exciting than the Nabisco merger. The quest —



The agents Pat Kavanagh, left, and Georgina Capel

by at least two agents — to capture the recollections of Countess Spencer was thwarted only by her sudden divorce agreement with its confidentiality clause. And the Frankfurt Book Fair, held every autumn, has more energy than any City trading floor, but with the same philosophy behind it. Money, deals, and people being bought and sold, created and destroyed, overnight. Like the City, the business of

agenting is seductive and alluring. To be a good agent, one needs several characteristics: the killer instincts of a jaguar, the intuitive powers of a Mystic Meg and the nurturing abilities of a Sicilian matriarch. You must be able to give good lunch, without any of this no-alcohol nonsense, and have a keen survival instinct. You must be patient enough to massage the egos of insecure writers, and able to allow

yourself the occasional sycophancy towards publishers. You also need to have your finger on the pulse of the literary world, and know what will be the next trend. This means membership, and regular appearances, at the Cobden, Garrick and Groucho Clubs, and having a credit card flexible enough to chase down potential authors to the four corners of the world.

David Godwin, who is the hot agent this year, has jumped on aircraft to India, Canada and America with no notice in pursuit of a deal. His gamble paid off on several occasions. Most notable was the Indian journey, because he was met at Delhi airport by a then unknown author, Arundhati Roy. He left with her manuscript under his arm, and her undying loyalty.

Godwin is one of the new breed of agents invading the formerly stuffy old-boy network, most of whom, like him, started out on the editorial side of publishing. When he worked at the publisher Jonathan Cape, Godwin was renowned for bringing in "literary" authors such as Martin Amis, Graham Swift and Ben Okri. He was a nice guy. Everyone liked him and wanted to go to his raucous annual Christmas party. He achieved some notoriety when *GO* magazine featured him in black leather, like Claus von Bülow. Then it went sour. Random House, the conglomerate under which Jonathan Cape was imprinted, changed drastically and one day Godwin was out of a job.

It took him about five minutes to reinvent himself. He loved books, but everyone knows there is no money in publishing (unless you own the company), and Godwin has a big family. Agenting, however, is rich with possibilities. Look, for instance, at the success of Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie, the American who got Martin Amis the money for his new teeth. Or Caradoc King from A.P. Watt, who gets the novelist Philip Kerr "generous book deals" that are then spun into "massive" film deals by Kerr's West Coast agents, CAA. Or Caroline Dawnay who commands "substantial" sums for Nick "Fever Pitch" Hornby.

David Godwin's early forays into agenting were not so successful. He irritated people because he ignored the unspoken rules. He poached clients, assuming that if the authors were willing to move, it was fair. He started out with five. Five years later, he had 60, including two Booker Prize winners, a racing driver (Stirling Moss), a former drug dealer (Howard Marks), a rock star (Ben Watt of Everything But The Girl) and, I admit, me. This year he had two authors shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and one of them won. Godwin went home in a white limo, a detail of which he is extremely proud. The last time one of his authors won, there was no room in the car, and he was left in the rain.

Last week he poached Claire Tomalin, a biographer who is regarded as both a financial



David Godwin's early forays into agenting irritated people because he ignored the unspoken rules and he poached clients

and literary acquisition. He swiped her from Pat Kavanagh, the wife of Julian Barnes, who, a few years ago, was the hot agent. Agenting, even Godwin will admit, is a ruthless business. Why did Tomalin defect? In the words of one London publisher: "Because David Godwin is so hot, he's smoking."

Agents also need to be able to lie, and to be able to be tremendous actors. The novelist Elisa Segrave, for instance, says she is always surprised at how cheerful Caroline Dawnay is whenever she rings. "She always sounds delighted to hear my voice," says Segrave. "Even if she is not." Dawnay's response is that all her authors are precious. "I think more in the long term," she says. She does not believe that it is wise early in a writer's career to ask for mega fees. "It is a big mistake. I think agents can be too greedy for their clients at an early stage. It is important to take the trouble not to go for the fast buck."

When I ring around among publishers, inquiring who is hot at the moment, the same few names always crop up. David Godwin, Johnny Geller from Curtis Brown, Derek Johns of A.P. Watt, Georgia Garrett from Andrew Wylie.

Interestingly enough, all of them are fairly new additions to the agenting scene. One editor, Virginia Bonham-Carter, from Fourth Estate, agrees with the list, but adds: "I think the hot shots are also — and I'm not being ageist — Gillon Aitken and Pat Kavanagh." Both have been around the publishing word for a long time. Maggie McKernan, head of Phoenix House, quickly cites Godwin and Geller, and also Georgina Capel, another young addition, who recently sold Julie Burchill's *Diana, Princess of Wales*, book for "a lot of money" (no one will ever go on the record with specific sums).

Others mention Georgia Garrett, the glamorous former editorial director at Picador. She just clinched a big deal for Zadie Smith, getting her a two-book contract at Penguin after a hotly contested auction. All Garrett had to buy was the 100 pages that Smith, a Cambridge graduate, had written. It is interesting to note the language that people use to describe the talents: hot, not hot, smoking, definitely uncool. It reminds me of bond traders discussing their stocks and shares. But this is part of the new world. Once upon a time, agenting was very clubby and insular. All that changed when a new breed emerged, championed by Ed Victor, an American educated at Cambridge, whose thirst for literature equalled his thirst for getting big deals. Victor's philosophy was always that he

owed it to his clients to get them as much money as possible, and hey — Will Self, Iris Murdoch and the late Irving Wallace — are rarely disappointed. It was Victor who changed the entire format of agenting when he decided to export it, dividing his office between London, his Long Island retreat and Hollywood. "I can do a deal from anywhere," he has often said. That phrase again. The Deal. "Oh, the deal is not everything," early every agent I talked to said. "The important thing is the client." Of course. But me thing is clear. Gordon Gekko is alive and well and king at the Frankfurt Book Fair. One almost feels sorry for the jackals.

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Luciano Pavarotti: "Nicoletta makes an enormous difference to my life. Without her, I'm frightened. We are never bored with each other. She's very clever, a marvellous conversationalist"

"But it was my mother who recognised the voice. When I was studying to be a gymnastics teacher, my mother say to my father, 'forget about the teaching, he'll lose

change. I would want to be able to eat less."

• **Pavarotti will sing Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on December 17**

[illegible]

EN. SHEPARD

[Illegible text]

Forging a nation from the flames

Robin Cook on unfinished business in the Balkans

Tomorrow I shall be in Bonn to discuss Bosnia with Britain's partners — including the United States, European Union members, Russia and international organisations — in the Peace Implementation Council set up as part of the Dayton agreement.

We shall be asking how far we have got in our efforts to bring about a lasting peace and what more we need to do to bring democracy and prosperity. We want, ultimately, to enable Bosnia to play a full part in modern Europe.

We have a long way to go. Bosnia barely functions as a nation, let alone one able to deal on equal terms with the democracies of Europe. But, two years after the Dayton agreement which ended the conflict, our goal at last looks to be within reach.

At Bonn we will set targets for Bosnia's future. It is right to recognise the achievements to date in implementing the Dayton agreement: the end of the fighting, the establishment of a Bosnian assembly and other central bodies in which Bosnians, Serbs and Croats sit together; the holding of local elections; the reductions in the number of heavy weapons. But in all of this, most of the hard work to date has been done by the international community. We have kept, even sometimes exceeded, our part of the bargain. But what about those in Bosnia itself? The efforts of the international community cannot make up for the inactivity of Bosnia's leaders. We cannot play their part for them. My main hope for Bonn is that it will issue a wake-up call for Bosnia's leaders.

Too often they have been prepared to make progress only grudgingly, prodded into action by the international community. They must now live up to their responsibility to lead the Bosnian people into the modern world.

The Bonn conference will address four key areas where the Bosnian people deserve a better deal.

Human rights: 1.5 million refugees, within Bosnia or abroad, remain displaced. The authorities need to create the conditions in which people can return home and be fairly treated when they do; the ethnic cleansing which characterised the conflict in Bosnia remains unacceptable. Reconciliation depends on justice. That means suspected war criminals standing trial in The Hague.

We have made progress: British SFOR troops mounted a brave and successful operation in Prijedor in July. Ten Croat indictments have been handed over to the International Tribunal in The Hague for fair trial.

The authorities in Bosnia and throughout the region must honour their legal obligation to hand over to the tribunals indictments. There will be no lasting peace if indeed there cannot be, until all the indictments are brought to justice. This obligation is a key part of Dayton: failure to comply will affect many other aspects of peace implementation, since the communities cannot be expected to live with each other — and with them-

selves — until this stain on the past has been removed. Open and fair government: the basic building blocks of a modern nation — currency, passports, citizenship — still need to be put in place. We will hold the new assembly and government in the Bosnian Serb Republic to the same standards of democracy as other Bosnian political institutions.

Transparency: I have been pressing for greater transparency in Bosnia's public finances so that those who should pay tax do so, and taxpayers know where their money is going. The European Union and World Bank have recently produced recommendations for tackling these and other problems. They need to be implemented.

Free and independent media: Bosnia needs a lively media, free from government control, across the whole country. People need information to make choices, to promote discussion and debate. This is essential and Britain has helped with equipment and programmes. All these issues will be discussed at Bonn. If we can get agreement to make progress we shall have moved a significant way towards our goal of creating a stable Bosnia which has turned the page on the trauma of its recent history.

To keep up the momentum, the Bonn conference needs to reinforce the authority of the international community's High Representative in Sarajevo, Carlos Westendorp. He is responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the peace agreement. He has a difficult task of breaking deadlocks and driving the process forward, but he has our full backing.

No one pretends that Bosnia can be transformed overnight. The devastation it suffered was incredible. But the experience of other countries in the second half of the 20th century suggests that it can be done, if people want it, and if there is visionary leadership prepared to meet the challenge.

No country since the end of the Second World War has had as much hands-on engagement from the international community as Bosnia. At Bonn we will show that there is a determination to finish the job, though it will be a long haul. The UK is prepared to stay the distance.

As Tony Blair made clear in Bosnia last week, our forces should stay for the foreseeable future if others do. We are in no doubt that a successor force to SFOR, whose mandate expires next June, must similarly be Nato-led, with the participation of all key allies whose successful efforts have underpinned the progress towards peace since Dayton. When Nato Defence Ministers met in Brussels last Tuesday, they commissioned work on a full range of options. But ultimately, reconciliation and a lasting peace for a rebuilt Bosnia are not in our gift. It is time for Bosnia's leaders to deliver their side of the bargain.

The author is Foreign Secretary.

Gingrich comes to town with a timely, and unfashionable, restatement of Anglo-Saxon solidarity

Who is the most powerful man in the world? We all know the answer to that question. It is the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. But the President cannot raise a tax, or pass a law, without first obtaining the consent of a second man, Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr Gingrich is the second most powerful man in the United States, and therefore the second most powerful man in the world. Not only is he the leader of the Republican majority of the House of Representatives, but he created that majority. In 1994 he campaigned on the "Contract with America" he drafted it and all but one of the successful Republican candidates signed it. Most of the Contract with America is now part of American law. The Republican capture of the House in 1994 was the first such victory in more than 40 years.

Mr Gingrich was in London last week. I heard him speak three times, once on the Today programme, once at an off-the-record dinner given by Aron, the American oil company, and finally at a lunch in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, given by the Institute of United States Studies of London University, with Baroness Thatcher in the chair. He got an off-the-record standing ovation at the off-the-record dinner; he was received with enthusiastic attention in Lincoln's Inn; whether he got a standing ovation in the Today studio I doubt, but there may have been a faint rattling of earphones.

There is no doubt that Newt Gingrich is an exceptional politician, in the United States or anywhere else. He is, to a reckless degree, a man of ideas. He is not engaged in the essentially boring business of polling public opinion in order to find out what people already think and then turning into soundbites what he finds that they believe. That, after all, is a

Trust Newt to think the unthinkable

task which could, in principle, be performed by a computer just as well as by a human being; perhaps better.

Mr Gingrich thinks his own thoughts, which tend to be both original and provocative, and then tries to persuade the electorate he is right. For this, he is admired and disliked to an almost equally high degree. In London he started saying the unthinkable by stating on the Today programme that in his view, "the Channel is wider than the Atlantic". American politicians are not supposed to say that nowadays.

The politically correct view is that Britain belongs to Europe, that the United States of Europe is inevitable, that Old King Kohl is a merry old soul, and that American policy must be based on a three-legged stool of the United States, which is the longest leg, Europe, the middle-length leg and Japan, the shortest leg. That is the geopolitical orthodoxy of American policy, reinforced by the fact that Britain is known to contain large numbers of White Anglo-Saxon Protestants, the most politically incorrect ethnic group in modern American academia.

The great Newt not only expressed his heretical view on the Today programme, he reinforced it by his subsequent analysis. He observed that the United States found itself alone with the United Kingdom in its view of the "real" threat of Saddam Hussein. Most Americans know that this is so, but do not think it polite to

say it. He talked about political democracy being based on the Anglo-American philosophy, which he traced back to Magna Carta, and to the experience of Britain in the civil war of the 17th century. He believes that the Anglo-US model is one in which God lends power to the individual and the individual lends it to the State, but that the Continental model has a quite different basis. There it is the State which gets the divine right, and the individuals who do what the State tells them.

William Rees-Mogg

He has also observed that the British as well as the American economies are now working better than those on the Continent. He is concerned at the levels of unemployment in France and Germany, and is amazed at how little serious debate there has been. He asks whether this unemployment is cyclical or structural, and clearly believes it to be structural. In short, Newt Gingrich has observed things about the reliability of the Anglo-American relationship and the economic and political culture of the European Union which most American politi-

cians have preferred not to notice. Most of them share the French view of the future of Europe, which is strongly anti-American, rather than the Thatcherite view which is equally strongly pro-American. Newt Gingrich is pro-American.

The next battle Mr Gingrich will be fighting will be the mid-term Congressional elections of 1998. He is confident the Republicans will win again and that should give him a third term as a Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives. He will decide the Republican platform for these elections, and that will have a very strong influence on the platform for the presidential election in the year 2000. He might even then become the Republican candidate; he generates more new ideas to the minute than most of his rivals can generate in a year, though that is not necessarily an advantage. The possibility that he might become the next President of the United States will give him added strength in the 1998 Congressional elections.

As Speaker of the House, he intends to set new goals for the future of America. He is fascinated by the impact of new technology, and believes that the American lead in defence technology is still growing very rapidly, to the point at which the United States will have something close to a monopoly of advanced defence capacity in the early years of the next century. He believes that Americans must

continue to accept the role of world leadership, in order to control developments which could damage the United States and the rest of the world.

Mr Gingrich asks how the leading nations can best handle the challenges of the global economy in the information age. He believes that small is beautiful. He believes in downscaling the State. In peacetime he thinks that the United States government, at the federal and state levels, should not spend more than a quarter of the national income. He believes in low taxes, in low cost government and in encouraging small and medium-sized businesses. As businesses get larger, he considers that they become less able to innovate, slower moving and more bureaucratic. He also thinks that government is, by an order of magnitude, less efficient than private business.

Last week, as he told us at Lincoln's Inn, Mrs Gingrich was making a routine purchase in Washington. She had to queue for three hours to buy what she wanted, though it cost, I recall, \$80. What was the purchase? It was her driving licence. In America, he said, we all live on two clocks: the private, which measures in seconds, and the government clock which measures in quarters of an hour.

Newt Gingrich is almost certain to win again in 1998. That victory, let alone a possible presidential victory for him or for his ideas in the year 2000, will reverberate across the Atlantic. If he could win on these ideas, our Conservatives will be looking very closely at them. His advice to them is to identify the problems, to name their goals, say how they would try to attain them; they should leave the Government to make its own mistakes, if it does. That cannot be bad advice.

People who don't need people

Buzz words are disguising real

Labour successes, says

Peter Riddell

The Government is in danger of being taken less seriously than it deserves to be. The obsession with presentation is overshadowing substance. This feeds silly claims that it is all public relations froth and little substance. There is, in fact, plenty of substance. But you are forgiven for noticing just the glitz.

No initiative can be made without a media visit — a rundown estate, a school, hospital, a pensioners' couple. Last Friday the Prime Minister popped up at Waterloo station to launch the logo for the British presidency of the European Union, and today and tomorrow there will be similar "events" to launch the social exclusion unit and the NHS White Paper. Parliament seldom gets a look, since it is not regarded as a media-friendly venue.

These policies are important and the events are well orchestrated. They reflect an American, presidential approach, as adroitly practised by Bill Clinton, of using the authority of his office to present new initiatives in non-political surroundings. This is a legitimate marketing tool.

What irritates me is the underlying attitude, the attempt to take the politics out of the inherently political. That is typified by the use of the word "people". This provides a favourably populist cloak over any Government idea. We have the "people's lottery" (to cover the diversion of some proceeds into Government programmes), a "people's Europe", and, worst of all, the "people's priorities", a term that Gordon Brown used twice in his Pre-Budget Statement. The Chancellor is far too intelligent not to realise that this is claptrap. Ministers had decided to reallocate money to



help pensioners and to encourage childcare in ways that they believe will be popular. These are Labour's priorities, not the people's.

The risk is that slogans distort the substance. The approving headlines which Mr Brown no doubt relished obscured the significance of what he is attempting on welfare reform. The Government is trying to transform the debate on poverty and unemployment by providing incentives and other bridges into work. Some build on what the Major Government began, but even if some of the details are arguable, the scale is much larger and the political impetus is greater. This is why Wednesday's threatened revolt by Labour MPs over single-parent benefits is so symbolically important. It is not only a test of the Government's willingness to stick to tight spending limits but also reflects

a clash of philosophies. Welfare to Work versus raising benefits.

It would also be wrong to dismiss the social exclusion unit as merely another taskforce. It represents a genuine attempt to cut across departmental boundaries to see what state agencies can do, working together, to tackle alienation and disorder on inner-city estates. That ties in with the proposals in the Government's schools Bill last week for education action zones in deprived areas to raise standards.

This adds up to an impressive social agenda. But it is not helped by gimmicky gestures or by pretending that these plans do not involve higher taxes. Mr Brown has raised taxes substantially, often in perverse ways.

For instance, any long-term policy for elderly people, as will probably be recommended by the new Royal Commission, is likely to stress the desirability of higher savings so people can afford private provision to reduce the burden on the State. But the Chancellor has made that much harder through the dividend tax on pension funds, the muddled proposals on individual savings accounts (which could reduce savings) and the end of tax relief for the elderly on medical insurance. This is partly because of his populist reluctance to tax directly — for instance by broadening the range of VAT or by raising its rate.

These pressures are underlined by the debate over public spending. Each department has now had an initial round of talks with the Treasury as part of the comprehen-

sive spending review, and ministers have just received a letter from Alastair Darling, the Chief Secretary, asking them to prepare plans on the assumption that they will receive no increase above existing planned budgets for the rest of the parliament. It is no coincidence that Derry Irvine, chairman of the Cabinet's future legislation committee, is also on the public spending committee.

One of the criteria for obtaining a slot in the next legislative programme is whether a Bill saves expenditure or produces more revenue. (Mr Blair has, incidentally, limited sympathy for complaints by ministers about Lord Irvine's "not-suffer-fools" style since he had to suffer the same as the Lord Chancellor's pupil more than 140 years ago.)

The same contrast between glitz and substance applies over Europe. Despite all the fuss and effort going into the British presidency in the first half of next year, it is unlikely to make much difference. The really important event of 1998 is the German elections in the early autumn. Nothing is going to happen on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy or the EU Budget until afterwards. The Blair Government has achieved a greater influence in the EU than its divided predecessor, not least because other countries have been impressed by the scale of its victory.

But the symbolic European event last week was not the unveiling of the children's logo on Friday, but the earlier rebuff to Britain's desire to join the EuroX group of single-currency participants. While a fudge may be worked out at the Luxembourg summit later this week, Mr Blair's aspirations for a leading British role in Europe will mean little while Britain stands outside monetary union.

The paradox of this Government is that it is building a record of substance despite all the presentational razzamazz. Mr Blair has a good eye for what he calls the big picture. He should concentrate on that rather than "new Labour speak" vacuities like the "people's priorities", the "Giving Age" and the "young country".

Clear lead

BY investing millions in this country, Jackie Stewart is showing how spurious is the Government's argument that Formula One deserves to be excluded from a tobacco advertising ban. Britain's greatest motor racing champion, who receives no cigarette sponsorship, is moving his racing operations to larger premises and expanding his workforce in Milton Keynes. The Government justified its Formula One U-turn last month by saying that if the sport were unable to raise millions from tobacco advertising it would "emigrate" to the Far East at the cost of thousands of jobs.

In an effort to produce a world-beating racing team, Stewart is moving his backroom boys and manufacturing base to a building almost twice as large as his present premises. He is also planning to expand his workforce from 160 to 250 by the end of next year. "It shows my confidence in British technology. After all, this is the world capital of motor racing," he says. "You can certainly build up a racing team without cigarette advertising on the car."

Soon after Tony Blair went back on his election manifestos, Peter Mandelson wrote a newspaper article justifying the decision. "Britain makes 80 per cent of the cars in connected industries," argued the silver-tongued Minister With-

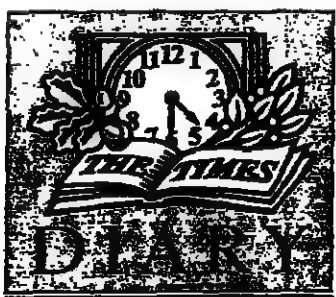


No smoke: Mandy, Stewart

out Portfolio. "To lose any significant part of the industry would be disastrous." The motor racing industry has now been given eight years to wean itself off tobacco; perhaps it should learn a few tips from Stewart.

Fair's fare

I AM pleased to hear that at 92 Lord Longford remains as deter-



mined as ever not to water down his beliefs, even against overwhelming odds. The earl, who has campaigned valiantly for the release of Myra Hindley, arrived last Friday by taxi outside Wandsworth prison for a visit. When told the fare was £12, Lord Longford expressed surprise, pointing out the last time he had been dropped at the prison he had been charged £7. "The driver and I had an altercation," he recalls. "Then we reached a compromise." The good earl handed over no more than £7.50.

Joyless rider

RATHER esoterically, the causes of crime are an issue that concerns Padraig Flynn as the European Commissioner for social affairs. But last week he experienced the

real thing: his £100,000 S-class Mercedes became the victim of a carjacking a week after he had taken delivery.

The robbery happened shortly after Flynn had been dropped off by his driver in dreary old Brussels. As the chauffeur headed home, an assailant held a gun to his head, ordered him out and then got behind the steering wheel. It was the last that was seen of the gleaming, dark blue model. Wait for the launch of an EU-inspired crackdown on carjacking.

FOR once Ian Greer has something to celebrate. The lobbyist, who was dragged into the cash for questions imbroglio, caught sight of an evening newspaper billboard last week yelling "Fayed faces £10 million claim". Greer bought the poster and now has it hanging on his office door.

Sits. Vac.

MY latest bulletin on former Conservative MPs who are finding it hard to adjust involves David Nicholson. Once the representative of the good people of Taunton, he has since found employment in Tom King's office acting as a researcher, a job usually assigned to aspiring twentysomethings. Now, I

hear, his attempts to strike out in a new direction have met with disappointment. Nicholson tells me he sent off his credentials to Charles St George, managing director of PPS, a lobbying company, but with stiff opposition from his former colleagues, he failed to win the appointment, worth £28,000 per annum. Any openings I hear of shall be promptly forwarded.

THE unfortunate blip in Gary Glitter's fortunes is good news for that other Seventies pop icon, Slade's Noddy Holder. Filming



"A handful of beans is quite a bargain, actually"

has just started in Liverpool on flourescencelove, a movie about a taxi driver with two wives, one of whom wins the chance to perform with Gary. After recent events, however, the producers decided to ditch the sequenced crooner. "It was a toss-up between him and Tom Jones," explains my man with the clapperboard.

Camera shy

LINDA McDOUGALL, the television producer, fears she has landed her husband, Austin Mitchell MP, in a spot of trouble with the Serjeant at Arms's office at Westminster. While making Westminster Women, a documentary about female MPs launched tomorrow, she exploited fully the Commons pass issued to her as a Member's wife. McDougall gained access to parts of the building that had been banned to cameras in perpetuity. For six months she gained on-screen exclusives by creeping around, ducking behind statues or waiting until the most fearsome characters in the Serjeant at Arms's office had left. "They say no for no good reason," she says. "Their aim is to keep people out. But I want to reveal things." Let's hope the powers at be do not come down heavily on poor Austin.



INES de la Sressange is suffering from ennui. The former Chanel supermodel, above, is fed up with Paris and wants to spend more time in Cool Britannia. "I'd love to open a shop in London but no one's asked me yet," she puns. "The whole social thing in Paris is totally fake. It's all so stiff there. No one knows how to have a good time — I much prefer London, where people know how to party."

JASPER GERARD



MIDDLE-CLASS INTEREST

Welfare should be a safety net not an entitlement

To reform welfare, as Tony Blair has promised to do, you have to go back to first principles. What, ministers should ask, is the social security system designed to do? Like a rock long eroded and covered with barnacles, it is virtually unrecognisable from its early days. Stripping away the accretions that have gathered over the past few decades could help to reveal a more rational design.

As the nation has become richer and healthier, government spending on benefits has risen in real terms, faster than the economy as a whole. This explains why it is worth looking afresh, as the Treasury and the Social Security Department are doing, at the underpinnings of the structure. The new rule of thumb, it seems, will be that welfare should be seen as a safety net rather than an entitlement, taking it back to the real meaning of "social security".

If this ethos is applied to individual benefits, it becomes clear that, for instance, disability payments should be taxed. Those disabled people who were unable to earn money would still be as well off as before. But those who have an alternative source of income clearly need less from the State.

The same reasoning should apply to the universal state pension, which is paid at the same level to rich and poor alike. The pension was introduced at a time when life expectancy after retirement was just a few years, and in which hardly anybody had any other retirement income. Now the elderly can expect to live for 20 years or so after finishing work — and a large proportion of them have occupational or private pensions. Should the State really be paying billions of pounds a year to them when the money could go to a more deserving cause?

If means-testing were introduced for pensions, there would be a chorus of complaint that the system was meant to be contributory — those who had paid their "stamps" all their working life expected something back in return. Yet the "insurance" element of national insurance has long been little more than a charade. These revenues do not

cover the cost of the social security budget — and the only reason that they have not been subsumed into general income tax is because it would look as if the basic rate had risen by nine percentage points.

There would also be a largely synthetic uproar about the "indignity" of means-testing. But taxpayers have their means tested every year by the Inland Revenue and that is seen as part of the responsibility of being a citizen. If taxes and benefits could be merged, at least for pensioners, whose income does not vary in the course of the year, then means-testing could be done in a perfectly dignified way.

Universal child benefit and pensions used to be seen as the cement that kept the middle classes supporting the welfare state. But that was in the days when no professional person ever expected to be unemployed: job insecurity was for the working classes. Now that bankers, accountants and architects are as likely to lose their jobs as shipbuilders, miners and steelworkers, each has an equal stake in the "security" aspect of the system. These days anyone might find themselves claiming help for unemployment. The middle classes do not need a bribe on top.

Moreover, from what the Government seems to be planning, their reward would be the release of more money for public services such as education and health. The reason why the Treasury is desperate to rein in spending on social security is that it takes money away from more constructive spending. Under the Conservatives, public expenditure as a percentage of national income did not fall, but the proportion going on social security rose sharply at the expense of spending on public services.

So politically, the Government has a strong card, even if the individual arguments about each benefit turn out to be fierce. As long as ministers are careful to protect the poor from penury, they should feel free to take an axe to middle-class benefits. But in return, they must deliver results where they matter: in the public services upon which almost all of us depend.

HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS

With your help, prostate cancer can be conquered

Among the most exciting of recent discoveries have been the genes that control the development of some cancers. Identifying them offers no instant cures, but for the first time it does provide a true understanding of the origins and development of the diseases they cause. From such understanding better treatments and maybe even cures will ultimately come. This year, as part of its Christmas Charity Appeal, *The Times* is asking its readers to give generously to a project which will turn the spotlight on a cancer long neglected, but one that takes the lives of 11,000 men in Britain every year.

Cancer of the prostate has been too much ignored. A cynic has remarked that if the prostate were a female organ, we would never hear the last of it. That very comment is both a tribute to the readiness of women to campaign vigorously for research into cancers of the breast and womb, and a comment on men's reluctance to discuss any intimate matter with anybody, let alone their doctor. The taboos that still surround prostate cancer, combined with the tendency of doctors to dismiss it as "an old man's disease", have done its sufferers no favours.

The numbers involved are large: some 16,000 new cases every year. As the population ages, this may be expected to increase. By 2018, the Institute of Cancer Research estimates, one in every four men can expect to contract prostate cancer. The causes are complex, but almost certainly involve a combination of genetic predisposition and environmental influence, either in the diet or

at the workplace. Thanks to the huge strides made by molecular genetics, it is at last possible to contemplate testing out these twin factors, leading to effective screening and better treatments.

Research is expensive, and research into male cancers has been grievously neglected. Compared with the £16 million spent annually in Britain on breast cancer research, a mere £1 million is spent on male cancers. Our readers, generous as they may be, cannot be expected to make good that shortfall, but this year's appeal gives them a chance of helping one of Britain's outstanding cancer laboratories to identify the prostate cancer gene. The Institute of Cancer Research needs a gene sequencer for its Sutton laboratory to speed the analysis of samples being provided by more than 100 hospitals.

This is a very good cause, at a moment of great opportunity in medicine. Many of today's successful drugs were based on inspired guesswork; the vaccines that have conquered so many infectious diseases were the result of luck at least as much as knowledge. If medicine could achieve so much with only partial knowledge, how much more will be possible when nature's secrets are laid bare? To put it another way, most of the easy triumphs are behind us. To conquer cancer will need a lot more than guesses. Only the best efforts of many researchers, working in collaboration, will be enough. We have the men and women: what they need are the tools to do the job. By giving generously, we can help provide them.

A FAMOUS DRAW

On the field as in life, fortune favours the bold

A drawn game is seldom a satisfactory result. The simulated war of sport is for winners and losers. But those who sat in the stands, at Twickenham on Saturday, or watched the match on television, or even heard about it afterwards are saying that England's draw with the All Blacks was a memorable event. A score of 26-26 is a mammoth draw, about the highest ever scored at this level. It enters the calendar of great sporting occasions as one of the most exciting matches ever played. Both teams deserved to win, and neither deserved to lose. So the draw was the right result.

But like all such sporting sensations, it came as a bolt from the clouds. Before the match nobody had given England a prayer — not the press, nor the public, nor the realistic professionals. One bookmaker gave New Zealand odds of 33-1. The All Blacks wanted to end their northern campaign with a whitewash of 12 victories in the year, taking revenge for not having beaten England by more than 25-8 at Old Trafford a fortnight ago and confirming their claim to be the best team in the world.

It seemed impossible that they could lose. The crowd looked forward to a gallant defence by England against overwhelming odds. Twickenham is used to that plot. But after five minutes little David Rees started from his own ten metre line, chipped over giant Jonah Lomu, gathered his own kick-ahead at full speed, brushed aside an attempted tackle by the great Zinzan Brooke, and squirmed through two human torpedo

tackles to score in the corner. That was a sensational enough start for fiction. But after 15 minutes England had scored two more tries to go 17-3 up. It was the most stunning opening attack by underdogs that international rugby has ever seen.

It was written in the script that the All Blacks would come roaring back after the humiliations of the first half. They did, with the fluid, fast, relentless 15-man rugby that is their trademark. And when they scored two typical tries and took the lead for the first time, it looked like another heroic England defeat. But it was England who came back for the last ten minutes and deserved to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat.

This match was an exhibition for the hard new game of professional rugby union. England played the New Zealand game of constant attack with ball in hand at speed across the whole width of the pitch with all 15 players playing every part. The All Blacks had the best of the game territorially and won the line-outs; but England scored three tries to New Zealand's two. So the traditionally dour Twickenham crowd sang Jerusalem and stood for both teams. Children ran on the pitch aware that they had seen something special. The joy of rugby, as of any sport, is that on the day either side can win. Twickenham showed that the difference between the top international sides is not as great as was rumoured. England showed again that fortune favours the bold, the fit and the determined. And so for both sides and all witnesses it was a famous draw.

Opera House report 'a parody'

From Mr John Major, MP for Huntingdon (Conservative)

Sir, Several days after the publication of the select committee report on the Royal Opera House, I remain as concerned by its tone and its conclusions as when I first saw it (details and leading article, December 4; letters, December 5 and 6). It is a parody of the report that should have been produced.

Select committee reports are very important. They are taken as dispassionate, mature judgments and their conclusions can have serious implications on events and on individuals.

This suggests to me that they should err in understatement not overstatement. They should not be "trailed" for effect, they should acknowledge difficulties in dealing with complex problems, and, above all, they should demonstrate to be fair.

The report from the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee falls these tests. It uses the meretricious wisdom of hindsight to lay nearly all concerned. This is unjust. No doubt errors were made but the tone and conclusions of the report are unwarranted.

This is not the only unjust report recently. It was unjust that the Committee on Standards and Privileges ended the examination into the Neil Hamilton affair without testing the evidence or calling Mr Mohamed Al Fayed to give evidence.

I would like the select committee system to maintain its authority as a check upon government. The system must not fall into disrepute because of the eccentricities of individual reports.

I have spent many happy hours at the Opera House and I know many of those criticised. The former chairman, Lord Chadlington is a friend whom I admire. So I will say little about the report's comments on Peter Chidling — save this: he was appointed to solve a long-running problem and was doing so. He was the solution, not the problem, and the recommendation that he should resign was bizarre. In my view he has the sort of dispassionate intellect that is ideally suited to the unravelling of complex problems.

Despite its criticism of others, the select committee itself has little worthwhile to offer by way of remedial action. It demands radical change but does not seem to know what that change should be. So it lamely recommends that Mr Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (who elsewhere in the report is criticised), should take over running the Opera House *pro tem*. In looking at remedies the select committee considered privatisation, noted its difficulties, flirted with a flotation, and concluded in favour of a *de facto* short-term nationalisation. Beyond that the committee contents itself with allocating blame.

This is the first report of the new select committee. Whilst it is a good read it is seriously deficient and unjust and such reports do not serve the Commons well.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MAJOR,
House of Commons,
December 7.

Free speech in prisons

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, The Court of Appeal's decision that prisoners may lawfully be prevented from talking to journalists (report, December 5) is as illogical as it is foolish.

If a prisoner writes to the Prison Reform Trust complaining about some aspect of his treatment, then I am free to publicise this information. How I choose. Am I now to be banned from visiting such a prisoner for fear that he will repeat in person what he has said on paper?

In the initial High Court ruling, Mr Justice Latham suggested that one of the reasons for the Prison Services policy was to prevent the communication by prisoners of material which might cause further distress to victims. But if a prisoner can further his case by writing to the press, why should the newspaper then be prevented from following up his letter with a visit? Freedom of speech should not end at the prison gate.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, ECL,
December 5.

New housebuilding

From Professor Patricia McAleen

Sir, The case for finding new words for "to develop" and "develop" is well made (letter, November 28; see also letter, November 29) in the light of pressures for building on greenfield sites and on our urban parks.

Is there not an equal case for finding a more friendly and positive acronym than the term "nimby" (not in my back yard) to describe those seeking to protect such sites?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA McALEEN
(Joint Honorary Secretary,
Friends of Old Deer Park, Richmond),
4 Hunters Court,
Friars Lane, Richmond, Surrey,
November 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Privacy, the law and media freedom

From Mrs Jocelyn Hay, Chairman of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer

Sir, Your leading article, "In a cloud" (December 3), raises disturbing questions about the unexpected impact which the Human Rights Bill, currently under consideration by the House of Lords, will have on the freedom of the press.

My organisation has grave concerns about its possible effects on broadcasters, especially public-service broadcasters such as the BBC, Channel 4 and the Welsh channel S4C, because under the Bill these channels may be classified as public authorities. If they are, they may be more restricted by the privacy provisions than other media, including commercial broadcasters such as ITV and BSkyB.

VLV believes that, as drafted, the Bill could seriously damage the traditional editorial freedom, independence, and indeed duty of public-service broadcasters to report news and conduct investigative journalism in the public interest.

We trust that the Lord Chancellor will give further careful scrutiny and thought to this matter before the Bill leaves the Upper Chamber.

Yours sincerely,
JOCELYN HAY,
Chairman,
Voice of the Listener and Viewer,
101 King's Drive, Gravesend, Kent,
December 4.

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, The Human Rights Bill, as your leading article says, makes it unlawful for a "public authority", meaning "any person certain of whose functions are of a public nature", to act incompatibly with a right conferred by the Convention. This does not apply to the "private" acts of such an authority.

You, Sir, have concentrated on attacking this definition because it may include the Press Complaints Commission. But the problems it poses go very much wider.

The terms public and private are notoriously imprecise. A great deal of litigation is going to be needed before anyone can say with assurance what is a public authority, and which are its excluded private functions.

The White Paper says the definition includes companies, such as privatised utilities, responsible for areas of

activity which were previously within the public sector. This is doubtful: a company is private when contrasted with, say, a local authority. Yet in law some are public, others private companies. The confusions are endless.

The answer is surely for the Bill to be amended so as to include a detailed list of the types of bodies and persons which are intended to fall within this provision.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
5 Old Nursery View,
Kennington, Oxford,
December 3.

From Mr Mike Jempson

Sir, Your leader backs Lord Wakeham's call (report, December 2) for the Press Complaints Commission to be exempt from the provisions of the Human Rights Bill.

The European Convention on Human Rights was drawn up by Britain and its democratic allies almost 50 years ago to combat the risk of fascism and communism. It may require some updating, not least because the fashion for privatisation has already diluted the power of the State and because commercial mass media have a firmer grip on the public than half a century ago. However, to dub it a "villains' charter", as some sections of the press have, and to seek exemption is wrong-headed and counter-productive.

The press are supposed to be the defenders of citizens' rights and the Bill will not prevent legitimate investigation of wrongdoing or hypocrisy in the public interest. It will, hopefully, put a stop to the publication of prurient stories simply to titillate readers and increase profits.

Far from opposing the Bill, journalists should be welcoming this strengthening of civil liberties. If we wish to restore public trust in journalism the best way would be to insist that the PCC should have the power to fine those who breach the industry's code, and compensate the victims of inaccuracy and intrusion.

Sincerely,
MIKE JEMPSON
(Executive Director),
PressWise,
25 Eastern Business Centre,
Felix Road, Bristol,
December 5.

'Paddy's pact'

From Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Matthew Parris's article today, "The price of Paddy's pact", gives a bizarre and wholly inaccurate picture of the relationship between the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party. I am astonished that such a shrewd political commentator can think that the strength of opposition to any Government policy can merely be measured by the number of MPs in the Commons chamber, particularly with a Government majority approaching 200.

In spite of our co-operation with Labour over constitutional reform, which has already delivered extraordinary progress for the country and for the Liberal Democrats, we have robustly opposed Labour where we disagree. Mr Parris should ask himself which party exposed Labour's £5 billion cut in public spending hidden in the July Budget, which party has fought hard for extra investment in schools and the NHS, which was the only party to oppose unrestricted phone-tapping, or the cut in single parent benefits, or backsliding on environmental pledges.

As was recognised by your distinguished political commentator, Peter Riddell only this week ("Riddell on Monday", December 1) it is now the Liberal Democrats who are the more effective Opposition to this Government than William Hague's right-wing rabble.

We will go on opposing where we disagree but supporting where we agree. That may seem confusing for

those used to the old knee-jerk politics of oppositionism, but it is the common sense that people in the real world actually want.

Sincerely,
MALCOLM BRUCE
(Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman),
House of Commons,
December 4.

From Mr David Rendel, MP for Newbury (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Harriet Harman must have been amazed at Matthew Parris's suggestion that the Liberal Democrats had been letting Labour off the hook on the subject of lone-parent benefit cuts.

On November 4, contrary to tradition, the Liberal Democrat peers forced a vote on the issue in the Upper House. My own social security team forced a special standing committee meeting in the Commons on November 12, and a further vote on the committee stage of the Social Security Bill on November 18, as well as making the only contributions lambasting the cuts in the Conservative opposition day debate on December 1.

Our efforts to encourage Labour backbenchers to join us in expressing abhorrence of these cuts have also led to co-sponsorship by two of them of our amendment to the Social Security Bill when it reaches its report stage in the Commons on December 10.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID RENDEL
(Liberal Democrat, social security and welfare team leader),
House of Commons,
December 5.

Libel damages

From Mrs Julie A. Scott-Bayfield

Sir, Mark Stephens's unsympathetic contrast of English libel law with certain aspects of the American version ("Throwing libel overboard", December 2) makes no reference to the extraordinarily high level of damages for libel frequently awarded in the American courts. For example, earlier this year, a small brokerage firm was awarded US\$22.7 million damages for libel against the *Wall Street Journal*.

In July 1995, the European Court of Human Rights held that the award of £1.5 million libel damages to Lord Aldington against Count Nicolai Tolstoy infringed his right to freedom of expression under Article X of the European Convention of Human Rights. In my view, this approach to moderating libel damages is to be preferred to the American awards.

Yours faithfully,
JULIE A. SCOTT-BAYFIELD,
Mishcon de Reya (solicitors),
21 Southampton Row, WCI,
December 2.

Rural attractions

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, Your two reports of December 4 on the decline of village life — "Good life can prove bad move for city folk" and "Desire for rural life heats heart of villages" — verge on the clinically depressed. Surely the real point about private versus public transport in the country lies in the tremendous service performed by the car.

Only a tiny percentage of rural households are without the use of a car. It is the freedom it confers that makes modern country life as attractive as your figures prove it continues to be.

As for the disappearance of so-called services, these vanish because the market for them no longer exists. Supermarkets and freezers are better ways of feeding families; regional shopping centres stock more and better goods; schools consolidate into larger, better resourced units; unprofitable pubs become restaurants or are turned into houses; local libraries "close" but information and entertainment increases by leaps and bounds. New country life hinges on private transport and electronic communications. Both are improving all the time.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PAWLEY,
Church Wing, The Old Rectory,
Somerston, Bicester, Oxfordshire,
December 5.

Nazi gold deflects from 'real' issues

From Mr Hanno Koppel

Sir, The attention paid to the theft of gold by the Nazis is an invidious distraction (reports, December 2, 3, 4, 5).

Much more than mere gold was taken. For example, my grandfather's factory in Dresden was confiscated by the Germans in the 1930s. It was given to a company that, today, continues to exist as a successful, multinational conglomerate. This company enjoyed the profits of the factory for sixty years. Then, just before the reunification of Germany, the company asset-stripped it, demolished the buildings and sold off the site. We are now being allowed to apply, through the courts, at our own cost, for compensation for the value of the empty site.

The Germans have made so little effort to recognise the damage they have done, damage which continues to reverberate down the generations. The focus on a few millions in stolen gold risks giving the false impression that major wrongs are, at last, being righted.

Yours faithfully,
HANNO KOPPEL,
Student Counselling Service,
47 Park Place, Cardiff.
koppel@cf.ac.uk
December 5.

From Mr Paul Secher

Sir, I wonder if the Austrian journalist who accused the British Government of theft for holding on to assets belonging to Jews from enemy countries (report, December 2) appreciates the irony of the situation or whether, like so many Austrians, past and present, he simply prefers to ignore a few home truths?

In 1939, my father was present when Austrian Nazis entered his family business in Vienna, stole the entire stock, which together with the property, was handed over to party supporters. Later, the family home was occupied and its contents similarly redistributed. Such action was commonplace by a Government and a people whose enthusiasm for embracing Nazism and its worst manifestations was unparalleled.

Successful Austrian governments have disclaimed responsibility. No compensation or restitution has ever been offered or received. Whilst the Austrians were evicting many thousands from their homes and businesses, Britain accepted many of those, including my father, who were fortunate enough to escape from a homeland and a people who had betrayed them.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL SECHER,
80 Wood Vale, N10,
December 3.

Libyan hospitality

From Mr J. A. S. Burn, MC

Sir, I have recently been fortunate enough to be included in a visit to Libya by the Eighth Army Veterans Association to honour the memory of those that lie in war cemeteries in Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli.

The Libyan Government has been exceptionally generous in meeting all our expenses in their country and making every possible arrangement for our comfort and transport.

Although generally Libya receives a bad press in this country and the policies of its leader are at times questionable, I would like to put on record my appreciation of Libya's gesture, of the widespread friendliness of the people and to say how impressed I was with the efforts to develop the country and to improve the lives of the people.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. S. BURN
(7th Armoured Division, 1942-45),
Ivy Cottage, Cleve, Bristol,
December 2.

A boy named Shirley

From Mr Michael Harman

Sir, Today's obituary of Big Daddy (real name, Shirley Crabtree) is surely wrong in saying that the wrestler was named after the heroine of Charlotte Brontë's famous novel. Shirley (also his father's name) was traditionally a masculine cognomen.

The parents of Brontë's heroine wanted a son. Providence granting them only a daughter after eight years, they bestowed on her the name they would have used for a boy.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARMAN,
Holmwood, 37 Upper Park Road,
Camberley, Surrey,
December 5.

National symbols

From Signor Raimondo Manzini

Sir, With typical fairness British friends have called to apologise for the strange choice of a pizza to represent Italy in the logo for the UK's presidency of the European Union (report, December 6).

If Foreign Office mandarins have such a craving for culinary delights why not also French quiche, German bratwurst and good old British fish and chips?

RAIMONDO MANZINI
(Italian Ambassador to the UK,
1968-75),
106 Somerset Road, SW19,
December 7.

OBITUARIES

Billy Bremner, Leeds United and Scotland footballer, died yesterday in hospital in Doncaster aged 54. He was born in Stirling on December 9, 1942.

Only days before he died of a heart-attack, Billy Bremner was still travelling around England's football grounds in his role as a media pundit. The unbridled passion that made him one of the most respected, and indeed feared, players of his generation was still evident in his forthright commentaries on the modern game.

Players today are making so much money you wonder if they still have that passion and pride, he said in one of his last interviews, and it was a typical comment from a man whose commitment was never questioned over a career which reaped 54 caps for Scotland as well as almost every club honour in the game. Perhaps his greatest moment for Scotland was the victory over England, then world champions, in 1967. Between 1968 and 1974 at Leeds United, Bremner lifted the League Cup, the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, the League Championship twice and also the FA Cup on two occasions as captain of one of the most dominant sides in the history of English football. His attempts to repeat that success as a manager, at Doncaster twice and back at Leeds, failed but those setbacks did not diminish his enthusiasm for the game which made him an instantly recognisable figure the length and breadth of Britain.

With a passion to match his fiery red hair, Bremner was the competitive —

sometimes, by his own admission, too much so — skipper of one of the greatest club sides the English game has seen as well as being leader of his country.

Born and brought up in Scotland, he moved to Elland Road as a teenager, turning professional for Leeds in 1959. He soon became the fulcrum of Don Revie's all-conquering side, making a total of 385 league appearances in his 17 years at Elland Road between 1959 and 1976.

Brought up through the ranks along with Terry Cooper, Norman Hunter, Gary Sprake and Paul Reaney, Bremner was at the heart of a tightly-knit team given an obsessional will to win by the management of Revie. While Manchester United, who had won the European Cup in 1968, were the team of glamour, boasting the style of George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, Revie turned Leeds into a side of valiantness, which made them the side everyone, except their fans, loved to hate and wanted to see beaten. By the time they broke up in the mid-1970s they were pre-eminent in English club football.

Driven to even greater efforts when they narrowly missed two trophies in 1965, losing the final of the FA Cup to Liverpool and pipped to the League title by United, they came back stronger and, after lifting the League Cup in 1968, became a force across the Continent. Dressing them in an all-white strip, Revie told his players they were the heirs to the Real Madrid team that had dominated Europe, and they believed him. Bremner was a vital cog. Turned down by Arsenal and Chelsea because they believed he was too small at 5ft 5in,

BILLY BREMNER

Bremner typically strived to prove that size was no barrier to success. A tough tackler, ready to dive in against far bigger opponents, he also boasted wonderful acceleration and was a master at transforming defence into attack. He could be used in a variety of positions, including centre forward; his ball-winning skills were matched by his ability to score great goals, and he was a superb passer of the ball. Even in the 1971 season, when Leeds failed to win a trophy, he was voted Footballer of the Year.

The competitiveness which, allied to his wonderful talents, made him such a formidable opponent could, though, also land him in trouble and he was no stranger to controversy. Perhaps the best remembered incident in Bremner's career was his dismissal along with Kevin Keegan, then a striker for Liverpool, for fighting in the Charity Shield at Wembley in 1974. Shame was heaped on the pair for marring what was supposed to be a showpiece occasion but, on that day at least, Bremner could claim that his reputation for indiscipline had preceded him. It was, in fact, his Leeds team-mate John Giles who had started the fracas with the swing of an arm, and it was only Keegan's mistake in identifying his assailant that saw Bremner become involved. He further upset the football authorities, along with Keegan, for ripping off his shirt as he left the field and he was given a 34-day suspension and fined £500.

While he could plead mitigation then, Bremner was not the type to complain if he was ever on the receiving end of some rough treatment. Once asked to mark Pelé in a game against Brazil at

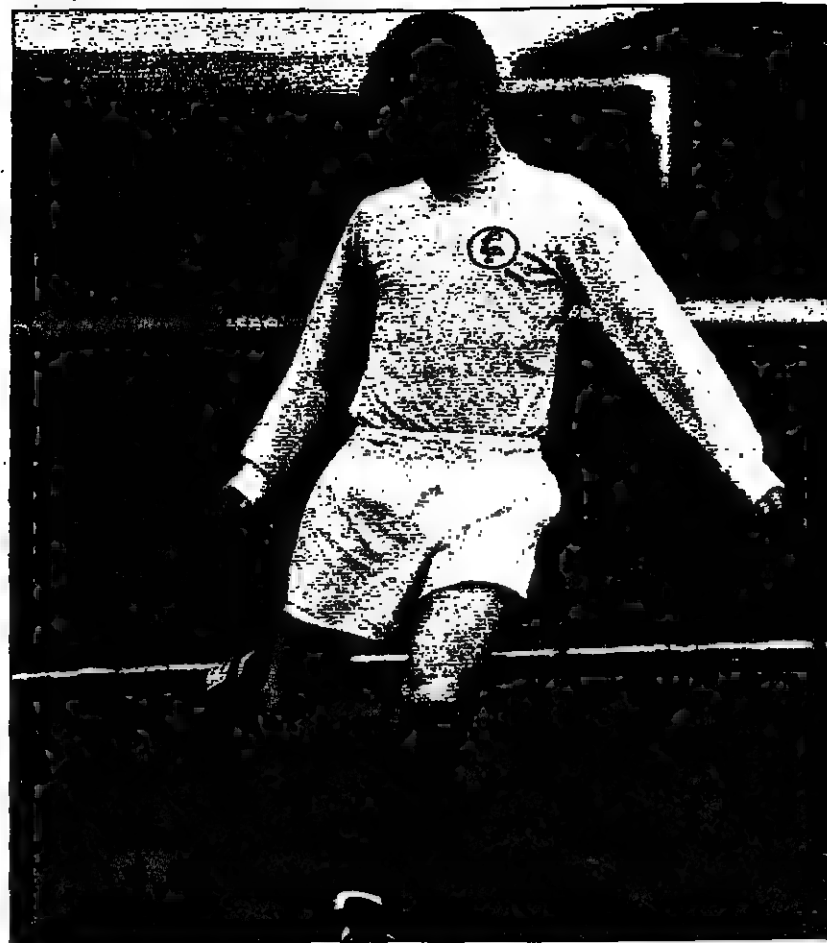
Hampden Park in 1965, the Scotland international found that illegitimate means were the only means of trying to stop the mighty Brazilian. Bremner took it almost as a mark of respect that Pelé felt the need to respond in a similar vein, swinging an elbow that left a tennis-ball sized bruise around one eye.

Bremner's international career probably reached its pinnacle in another game against Brazil, producing an outstanding display in a 0-0 draw during the 1974 World Cup. It ended in ignominy, however, the following year when he was banned from playing for his country again following a nightclub incident with team-mates in Copenhagen.

Bremner moved to Hull City for £35,000 in 1976, scoring for his new club on his debut to engineer a 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest. But within two years he was on the move again, this time to Doncaster Rovers where he was appointed player-manager. But the attempt, in this new role, to repeat the glory of his playing days never really took off. Doncaster never gave him the resources to challenge the country's elite and in 1985 he returned to Leeds where he succeeded Eddie Gray as manager at Elland Road. But he only lasted three years: being sacked by Leeds in 1988. In the following year he returned to Doncaster, again as manager, but with similarly dispiriting results.

He eventually opted for reminiscing over his glory years as a noted after-dinner speaker, going on tour with his old team-mate Norman Hunter.

Bremner is survived by his wife Vicki, and by a son and two daughters.



LORD DAINTON

Lord Dainton, FRSE, former chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the board of the British Library, died on December 5 aged 83. He was born on November 11, 1914.

FRED DAINTON brought the mind of a scientist to bear upon public affairs. As a Yorkshireman he brought hard graft and a hard head to the problems of whatever cause or institution he was representing. He spoke his mind, but he had a warm heart and was loyal to those who shared his origins. In his five years, 1973-78, as chairman of the University Grants Committee, when Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education, he demonstrated his independence of mind in a post in which he might well have been simply a cipher. As chairman of the Board of the British Library, 1978-85, he ensured that the new institution would be abreast of the latest information technology when it eventually opened.

Frederick Sidney Dainton was born in Sheffield, his parents' ninth child. His father was a stonemason who had had no more than nine days' schooling in his life, and was too poor to provide money for boots for the boy. But his son won a scholarship to the Central Secondary School, and was later awarded an exhibition at St John's College, Oxford, even though, entranced by the beauty of the colleges, he had gone for a walk and missed the final paper.

At St John's, when the vacation began, Dainton would have to borrow a bicycle to pedal the 14½ miles home. He graduated with first class honours in chemistry in 1937, and moved to Cambridge to work under Norrish on the reaction between oxygen and hydrogen. He concentrated on disentangling the roles of the numerous simple reactions, the interplay of which produces so many compounds.

Dainton had just been appointed to a temporary teaching post when the Second World War began. At first he remained in Cambridge carrying a heavy burden of college teaching, but later he was engaged on secret work for the Air Ministry. His research there alerted him to the dangers as well as the benefits of



nuclear energy. But although in the early days he was irritated that the authorities would not take seriously the effects of radiation, he was always a vehement opponent of those who wanted to scrap nuclear power stations.

In 1942 he married Barbara Wright, whom he met while she was at Newnham College. Their married life was outstandingly happy. She brought him warmth and friendship and was fiercely loyal. In 1944 he had been appointed demonstrator by his department and a fellow of St Catharine's College. The next six years saw his reputation develop. He believed that the most worthwhile field of physical chemistry was the study of rates of reactions, and within this field he diversified his existing interests in gaseous systems to include first polymerisation and next the relatively new subject of radiation chemistry.

In 1950 he moved to the University of Leeds, and it was there that he realised his potential and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1957. In his lifetime he published 297 major scientific papers, as well as 17 accounts of his secret wartime research. He was more an unraveller of complexities than an innovator who perceived central simplicities, but his delight in research did not mean that he

neglected teaching. He pioneered tutorial teaching to science students in civic universities. He raised money from industry to build extensions to the Leeds School of Chemistry, and established a High Energy Radiation Research Laboratory, located at Cookridge Hospital. The university showed its gratitude to him by extending his directorship of that laboratory for seven years after his departure, and his scientific work was later recognised by the award of the Davy Medal of the Royal Society.

But by now relations with some of his colleagues had become strained, and his hopes for a new chemistry building had waned. So in 1965 Dainton left Leeds to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Despite great goodwill on his arrival, the three-cornered negotiations for the university's new medical school very quickly ran into unexpected difficulties with the planning authorities. His troubles were multiplied by student militants, who set up the "Free University of Nottingham". Dainton covered the walls with posters announcing the building was reserved for E.U.N. Disgruntled by this stroke of repressive tolerance, the militants coined a slogan "Don't let Fred laf at you again." His method of defus-

ing the affair brought criticism, as did his revision of the regulations in halls of residence, and he took personal attacks too much to heart. He regarded the student disturbances as a childish waste of time, and in 1970 when the chair of physical chemistry at Oxford fell vacant he applied and achieved his undergraduate ambition to hold Hinchelwood's chair.

He did not hold it for long. Three years later he was appointed chairman of the University Grants Committee. He regarded himself very much as the universities' man, and although he was formally adviser to the Minister of Education, Margaret Thatcher, he meaningfully refused to sit next to her at meetings. His time at the Grants Committee coincided with the sharp rise in oil prices and the subsequent financial crisis, which destroyed the quinquennial system and reduced university budgets by four per cent. Dainton was more concerned with trying to see fair shares for all the universities than with persuading them to change un-economic procedures, but among his initiatives was the provision of additional money for courses at four or five universities that combined engineering with management studies.

In 1967 the Labour Govern-

ment reversed the decision to erect a building for the British Library opposite the British Museum. Dainton was asked to chair the committee on the needs of the national libraries and to recommend where the new library should be sited. The report said it must be in central London, and indeed endorsed the original site as the most suitable. But the real value of the report lay in its recommendations about the organisation of library services, most of which were accepted.

It was no surprise then that when Dainton's five years at the Grants Committee ended, he was chosen as chairman of the British Library board on the retirement of Lord Eccles. At a time when the technology of information retrieval and librarianship was undergoing a revolution, Dainton ensured that the library would be up to date in all its functions after the move to the St Pancras site. He did not regard the chairmanship as a part-time job, and when the chief executive fell ill, Dainton added that work to his own, which was to cause some difficulty to Sir Harry Hookway's successor.

The organisation of the British Library is his most lasting memorial. Dainton sat on many committees and bodies. Among the most significant was his chairmanship, in 1965, of a committee to investigate why there were so few candidates for university places in science and technology. His report recommended the abolition of the specialised sixth form curriculum which forced boys and girls to choose between the humanities or mathematics and sciences at the age of fourteen. He urged that all pupils should study mathematics until they left school. These recommendations fell on stony ground, however, and have yet to bear fruit.

Among his many appointments, Dainton was president of the Faraday Society, and first president of the Chemical Society. For his services to the State, he was made a life peer in 1984, and made a number of speeches in the House of Lords. He was also a member of the Government's Committee on cuts in university and scientific research expenditure. An honour that gave him special pleasure was his appointment as Chancellor of the University in his home town of Sheffield, which he held until his death.

His wife, Barbara, and a son and two daughters, survive him.

LORIMER WEIR

Lorimer Weir, OBE, Financial Controller of British European Airways, 1946-64, died in Edinburgh on November 1 aged 93. He was born on November 21, 1904.

ONE of the most industrious of the backroom boys who rose to the top of early British air transport, Lorimer Weir was for 33 years at the centre of the financial affairs of, successively, Imperial Airways, BOAC, and British European Airways. How well he performed through difficult, formative years is shown by the translation of Imperial Airways' £1½ million of pre-war losses in the years between 1924 and 1939 into BEA's £13 million of cumulative profits during its 28 years of existence from 1946 to 1974.

Involved in all of this, Rankin Lorimer Weir was educated at George Heriot's School and Edinburgh University with a medical career in prospect. In 1921, however, at the age of 17 he decided upon accountancy. Instead, joined an Edinburgh firm of chartered accountants. After qualifying in 1928 he departed for London to learn the ropes in the head office of the Gaumont British Picture Corporation. Despite the attractions of the budding "talkies", and of his free passes to the 300 cinemas of the Gaumont British circuit, in 1930 Weir set off for Canada to do accounting work in the brewing industry. There, he not only widened his professional experience but developed a palate for fine beers.

Early in 1933, impressed with the up and coming prospects of air transport, he wrote so persuasively to George Woods Humphry, managing director of Imperial Airways in London, that after an interview with Sidney Dismore, Imperial's secretary and assistant general manager, Weir rapidly found himself installed as the airline's sole internal auditor.

From there his auditing work took him to Brindisi, where the airline's passengers boarded Short Calcutta flying boats for Alexandria by way of Crete where Imperial's motor-yacht, *Imperia*, offered comfortable night stops for passengers — and delightful swimming for staff — including the internal auditor.

In those days of multiple, short-haul, staging-posts on the air route to India, Weir

became familiar with the "beau geste" type block-houses at Gaza, Rubea Wells, Bahrain and Basra, where, on occasion, he had to deal with such staff expenses as the hire of a camel for local transport.

Pending the delivery of the longer-range Short Empire flying boats, and the starting of an associated company, Indian Trans-Continental Airways — of which Imperial Airways held a 51 per cent share — Karachi became the interim terminal of the India route.

There, after many adventures, Weir had his overseas service brought to a sudden end by a vicious bout of typhoid, of which his local assistant died. He was flown home in one of the majestic Handley Page HP42 biplane airliners — the jumbos of their day — which had just been introduced into long-haul service. After recuperation in Scotland, he resumed work at Croydon Airport as assistant chief accountant under Arthur Quinn Harking (who was later to become administrative director of BOAC).

With Quinn Harking, in 1936 Lorimer Weir set up the Imperial Airways pension scheme — an advanced concept for the time. The airline and its employees each paid 5 per cent of the employee's salary to buy deferred annuities administered by four trustees — including Weir who continued for the next 34 years, eventually becoming its chairman. In due course, the Imperial Airways scheme, joined with BOAC, BSAA and BEA, became under Lorimer

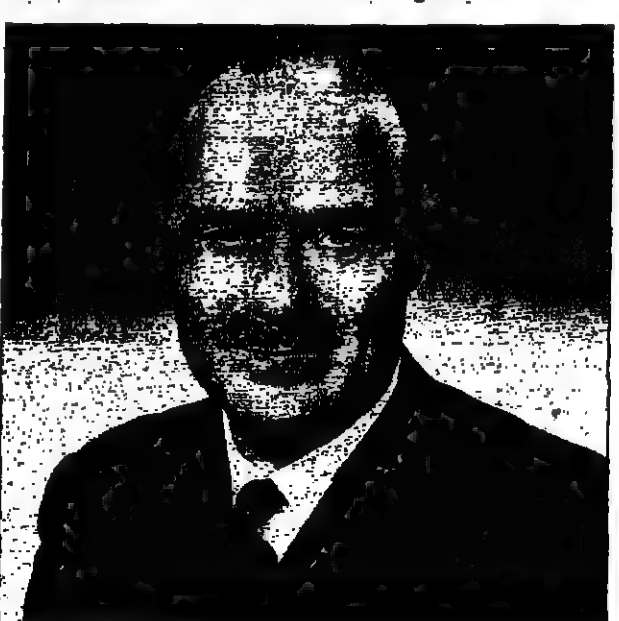
Weir, the Airways Joint Pension Scheme.

When war came in 1939, Weir moved, with Imperial's headquarters staff, to the Grand Spa Hotel at Bristol, where he set up an underground accounts and pay office in a disused railway tunnel adjoining the hotel. It continued uninterrupted, and operating normally, throughout the subsequent heavy bombing of the city.

In February 1946 Sir Harold Hartley, the chairman-designate of BEA, invited Weir to join the organising committee of that prospective new, European airline, of which Weir became the first full-time departmental head as financial controller. In addition, he chaired an international committee (with KLM and American Airlines) to organise the IATA clearing house for the settlement of inter-airline transactions on a worldwide basis. From this, Weir went on to become chairman of the IATA financial committee from 1951 to 1955.

For his work at BEA he had been appointed OBE in 1949. Weir suffered a heart attack in August 1964, but came back to work until, in September 1965, he retired from the BEA board during a year in which he had the satisfaction of seeing the airline carry 5.6 million passengers and return a profit of £3 million after meeting all operational and capital costs.

He had married his Scottish fiancée, Dorothy Aiken, in 1935. He and his wife, who died in 1989, are survived by their daughter.



Appointments

The Rev Norman Hayton, Team Vicar, Egmont and Hale (Carlisle): to be Priest-in-Charge, Distington (same diocese).
The Rev Robert Hunter, Team Vicar, The Howden Team Ministry (York): to be Priest-in-Charge, St Peter, Ashom-under-Lyne (Manchester).
The Rev Jay Kothare, Team Vicar, St Paul's Ecumenical Centre, Thamesmead (Southwark): to be Community Relations Officer, and Priest-in-Charge, St Chad, Moston (Manchester).
The Rev Mark Ireland, Vicar, Baxenden St John (Blackburn): to be Diocesan Missioner, and Team Vicar, Walsall St Matthew, St Luke, and St Mark (Lichfield).
The Rev John Lees, Minor Canon and Succentor, St Paul's Cathedral (London): to be Team Rector, Swindon New Town (Bristol).
The Rev Roger MacPhee, NSM Curate, Truro (Cornwall): to be Curate, Truro (Cornwall).
The Rev Rob Munro, Curate, Hartford (Cheshire): Rector, Davenham (same diocese).

Church news

Canon Alan Nugent, Diocesan Director of Education (Durham): to be Director, Mission and Training Development Forum, and licensed general preacher (Lincoln).
The Rev Angela Pavey, parvise Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and Assistant Curate, Birchwood St Luke (Lincoln): to be full-time Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and licensed general preacher (same diocese).
The Rev Geoffrey Price, Priest-in-Charge, Drayton in Hales (Lichfield): to be Vicar (same diocese).
The Rev James Rooke, formerly Priest-in-Charge, Bournemouth, and Chaplain, Kewick School (Carlisle): to be NSM Assistant Curate, North and South Hylkham (Lincoln).
The Rev David Roscoe, Curate, Dutton St Michael (Liverpool): to be Team Vicar, Kirby St Andrew (same diocese).
The Rev Derek Seber, NSM, Moss Side St James (Manchester): Priest-in-Charge, Thornton

Hough, and Industrial Chaplain, South Wirral (Cheshire).
The Rev Gordon Small, Team Vicar, Buxton and Baginall (Lichfield): to be Assistant Curate (known as Associate Priest), Deal St Leonard w St Richard and Sholden St Nicholas (Canterbury).
The Rev Simon Stephenson, Team Vicar, Wrentham, and Priest-in-Charge, Farnworth (Norwich): to be half-time Vicar, High Oak w Hingham, Scoulton and Woodrising, and half-time Chaplain, HM Prison Wayland (same diocese).
The Rev Barry Thompson, Canon Residentiary, Chelmsford Cathedral: to be a Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor.
The Rev Philip Wain, Assistant Curate, Winton St Helen (Cheshire): to be Priest-in-Charge, Lea Group (Lincoln).
Canon Michael Walters, Vicar, Kinsford and Toft (Cheshire): Priest-in-Charge, Congleton St Peter, and Congleton St Stephen, and Team Rector-designate of

proposed Congleton Team Ministry (same diocese).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Alan Cochrane, Rector, Hilgay and Southey (Ely) to retire January 31, 1998.
The Rev Keith Hagger, NSM Curate, Woodnesborough w Worth and Staple (Canterbury) to retire January 8, 1998.
The Rev Jim Innes, Vicar, Brearley w Swenestham (Cheshire) retired October 12.
The Rev Michael Lowe, Assistant Curate, Muddford (Winchester) retired November 30.
The Rev Walter Smith, Vicar, Lythe w Uthorpe (York) retired November 30 on health grounds.
The Rev John Worsdall, Vicar, The Siskony Group (Lincoln), to retire February 28, 1998.
Corrections
The Rev Andrew Ballard, Team Rector of Waldean Moor with Little Holton (Manchester): to be Priest-in-Charge, "Rochdale St Chad, Good Shepherd, St John's Divine, and Team Rector-designate (same diocese).

MR. GLADSTONE IN SCOTLAND

I will ask you to believe with me that the errand which has brought me here is a most serious errand. (Cheers and the cry of "We believe it.") I find the confirmation of that view in the language of the address from the Liberal associations which has been read in your hearing. These associations feel that the time has arrived when the country should be freed from the disastrous policy of the present Government. (Cheers.) Undoubtedly the liberation of the country from the present Government is the main and capital object of my pilgrimage. (Loud cheers.) After the demonstration which the conduct of the present Parliament has afforded, and, in particular and far beyond the rest, after the demonstration which the last two disastrous years have afforded, I tell you plainly that unless you effect that you will effect nothing. (Cries of "We will do it," "It's true," and cheers.) That removal of itself is but a part of your work. What

ON THIS DAY

December 8, 1879

Gladstone closed his mid-Lothian campaign with a visit to Motherwell where he addressed a large crowd at the station, the warmth and intensity of whose feelings are illustrated by the interjections in this relatively short extract.

will come afterwards for those who may be selected to guide the affairs of this country will be a matter of the utmost complexity and difficulty. (A Voice: "They'll manage it.") Do not suppose that a party triumph is the end of all things in my views. (Cheers.) No: it is but the necessary, the essential, the indispensable beginning. (Renewed cheers.) And here let me say, with respect to a kind expression that was used in one of the speeches addressed to me, that a return to place and power is no part of

the purpose for which I have come here. I have not come here for myself. (A Voice: "The more's the pity," and cheers), but for the public interest. What you have heard said is that you want statesmen who will uphold the Constitutional privileges of the people, and the meaning of that is that during these latest years the Constitutional privileges of the people represented in their Parliament have not been upheld. (Cheers.) You say you want statesmen who will maintain the national honour. If the national honour could be maintained by boasting and brag (cheers and laughter), then, indeed, it has been splendidly maintained (renewed cheers and laughter); but if the national honour depends upon a firm decision to accord to others the rights you claim for yourselves, if the national honour is the civilizing principle of equal rights to all, if the national honour requires that whenever strong words are used they shall be followed by strong acts, then we are, indeed, of opinion that the national honour has not been maintained. (Cheers.)

Middle class benefits may be taxed

The middle classes are being targeted by the Treasury in proposals to reform the welfare state that go far beyond anything so far envisaged.

All state benefits — including child benefits — could be either taxed or means tested under proposals in response to Tony Blair's order to "think the unthinkable". The Treasury is also considering scrapping housing benefit and replacing it with a flat-rate payment. **Pages 1, 21**

South Pole skydivers killed

Investigators are trying to discover why three of the six men making a unique skydive over the South Pole died when their parachutes failed to open. The survivors could only watch helplessly as the victims — two Americans and an Austrian — plunged 8,000ft on to the polar ice. **Pages 1, 5**

Bremner dies

Billy Bremner, the Scotland and Leeds United footballer of the late sixties and seventies, died at 54 of a suspected heart attack. He was as skilful as he was passionate about the game. **Pages 1, 23**

Teachers unite

Left-wing teachers have held secret talks on the establishment of a "super-union" which would cover schools and colleges. Moderates claim it would encourage classroom disruption. **Page 2**

Robinson pressure

Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire minister, is under pressure to explain his financial affairs after the discovery of links with offshore trusts in Bermuda as well as Guernsey. **Page 2**

Parson apologises

Michael Bunce, the Scottish clergyman found guilty of embezzlement, apologised to his former congregation for the hurt he had caused them. **Page 3**

Teletubby tantrum

The Talking Teletubby, predicted to be an instant hit, will be released next month, angering purchasers of Teletubby Christmas merchandise. **Page 3**

Beef blockade off

Farmers protesting against cheap beef imports and falling incomes ran into stiffer police resistance and abandoned a planned blockade of Dover harbour. **Page 4**

O come all ye faithful shoppers

Shoppers who opt to spend the last Sunday before Christmas at their local Asda supermarket could be in for a spiritual surprise. Instead of *Jingle Bells*, store speakers throughout the land will ring out the measured tones of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Shoppers will be handed an order of service and invited to sing along to hymns and carols. **Page 1**

Flu fears

Health officials in Hong Kong are trying to ease fears that a strain of influenza previously found only in birds could mutate and spread to human beings worldwide. **Page 8**

EU do's and don'ts

Ministers and officials have been given an etiquette guide and practical tips such as making sure the microphone is on, to avoid pitfalls during the six months of the UK's EU presidency. **Page 10**

Gibraltar lease

Spain is to propose that Britain take a 99-year lease on Gibraltar, after London climbed down over its threatened veto of Spanish integration in Nato's military command. **Page 11**

Mossad blunder

Mossad, the Israeli secret service, was further discredited with disclosures that it wrongly assessed Iraq's nuclear potential and was misled over Syria's aims. **Page 12**

Iran's olive branch

Two decades after Iran threatened to export its Shia Islamic revolution it is making peace with its Saudi enemies to challenge American influence. **Page 13**

Tactical shift

President Clinton has ordered a change in the targeting of American nuclear weapons to deter possible conflict by threatening a devastating response. **Page 14**



Russian cadets and students from the Moscow choreographic school dancing at a ball celebrating their cadet college enlistment

Union snub: The Government plans to side with the CBI against the TUC on the key element of union recognition: how strong the vote in favour has to be. **Page 46**

Severing coal: Desperate attempts are being made by the Government to persuade power generating groups to take more coal. **Page 46**

Creating jobs: Tesco, the supermarket group, is to give a strong boost to the Government's welfare-to-work programme by taking on 1,500 people under the low-cost training scheme. **Pages 48, 49**

Stopping cheats: The Stock Exchange is expected to crack trading into a couple of hours on New Year's Eve in an attempt to stop cheats using its new trading system to rig the FTSE 100. **Page 48**

Hidden illnesses: Prostate cancer is the hidden killer for men. In 20 years' time one in four British men will have developed it. This year *The Times*, as part of its Christmas appeal, is supporting *everyman*, set up by the Institute of Cancer Research, Anjana Ahuja and Dr Thomas Sutcliffe report. **Page 15**

Christmas treat: The West Yorkshire Playhouse's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* offers a merrier mid-winter entertainment than any pantomime. **Page 18**

Wisdom of a bear: Winnie-the-Pooh has become a guru to everyone from philosophers to Latin scholars. Is a new promotion in proving. **Page 19**

Musical high: The Royal Opera's new production of Britten's *Paul Bunyan* is a revelation, says Rodney Milnes. **Page 19**

FEATURES

Book talk: Once upon a time, ageing was very chummy and familiar. All that changed when new wheeler-dealers emerged. Janice di Giovanni reports. **Page 16**

Luciano Pavarotti: After 35 years of marriage, the great tenor left his wife, Adina, for a new love. His relationship with Nicoletta Manovani has altered the lives of everyone around him. **Page 17**

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
From medieval villain to dignified hero: how the years have changed Shylock

■ **LAW**
Hungry for hanging: the noose tightens on Death Row in Jamaica



Preview: Dr Phil Hammond's new acronym in *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor* (BBC2, 8.00pm). Review: Matthew Bond on Helen Mirren and Marianne Faithfull. **Pages 46, 47**

OPINION

Middle class interest

The new rule, it seems, will be that welfare should be seen as a safety net rather than an entitlement, taking it back to the real meaning of "social security". **Page 21**

Hope for Christmas

The taboos that still surround prostate cancer have done its sufferers no favours. This year, as part of its Christmas Charity Appeal, *The Times* asks you to give generously to a project which will highlight a cancer that kills 11,000 men in Britain each year. **Page 21**

A famous draw

England showed at Twickenham that fortune favours the bold, the fit and the determined. **Page 21**

COULTERS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Newt Gingrich thinks his own thoughts, which tend to be both original and provocative, and then tries to persuade the electorate he is right. For this, he is admired and disliked to an almost equally high degree. **Page 20**

ROBIN COOK

Bosnia barely functions as a nation, let alone one able to deal on equal terms with the democracies of Europe. But our goal at last looks to be within reach. **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

What irritates me is the Government's underlying attitude, the attempt to take the politics out of the inherently political, typified by the use of the word "People". **Page 20**

CRICKETERS

Billy Bremner, footballer; Lord Dunsford, chairman, University Grants Committee; Lorimer Weir, BEA. **Page 23**

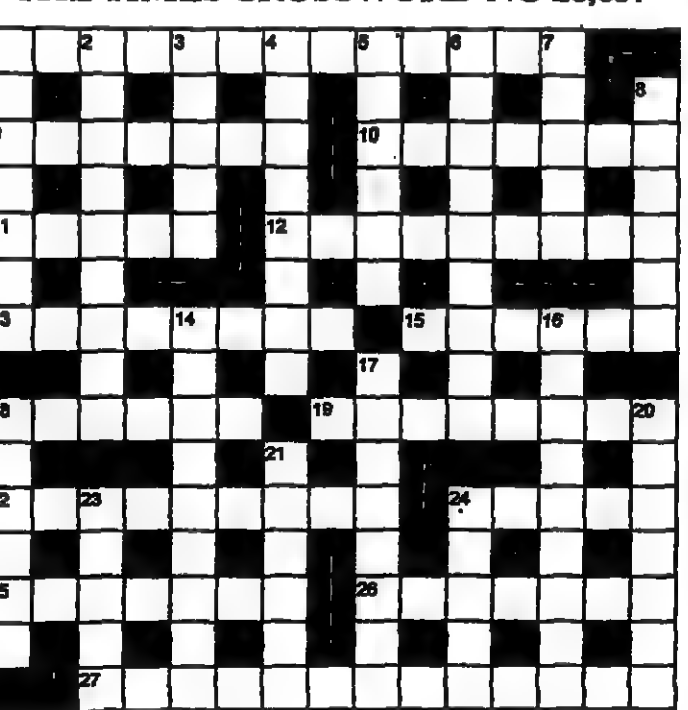
LETTERS

John Major on Royal Opera House report; press freedom and the Human Rights Bill. **Page 24**

CROSSWORD NUMBERS

5, 9, 19, 21, 30, 49. Bonus: 43. Six ticketholders shared the £13.2 million rollover jackpot, winning £2.2 million each.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,657



- ACROSS**
- Like Olympians, very arrogant (4,3,6).
 - Backward over accepting fiction as outstanding work (7).
 - Lamb partly hidden by mountain ferns (7).
 - Terrible ride with new driver, one frequently unemployed (5).
 - Run into musicians at an Anglican church social event (4,5).
 - Servant, though advanced in years, performing several functions (8).
 - Bloody conflict confined within desert (6).
 - Wretchedness of quarters in muddy environment (6).
 - He's accommodated in Civil Service employee's castle, perhaps (8).
 - He takes away rubbish carried from back to front (9).
 - If too close, a dangerously silly position of fellow on motorway (3,2).
 - People generally object to receiving a new king (7).
 - Sort of boying that is stopped by terrible slump (7).
 - Have unrealistic aspiration, in theory — conform otherwise (3,3,4).

- DOWN**
- Gallantry of male officer protecting French king (7).
 - Where we may club together to play by the sea (4,5).
 - Muslim prince became erratic to some extent (5).
 - A sound indicator of one's calling (8).
 - It's natural to see British soldiers going into pub (6).
 - Main deck for the top band? (9).
 - Over there, outside this country, where prospects were good (9).
 - Popular minister to have in mind (6).
 - African country scores without strictly following convention (9).
 - One of the well-protected beginners Kipling wrote about (9).
 - Honour painter, one who transformed the house (8).
 - Title of French woman architect in Maine (6).
 - Material that makes Indian bread bitter (7).
 - Mike's employed here with boss I love (6).
 - Invigorating do for musicians (5).
 - Cabinet-maker's place in West (5).

The solution of **Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,656** will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,657. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other forms by The Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 145, Virginia Water, Surrey GU24 0HN. Telephone 0117 732 5000 and who printed at Millbank, London, W8 5AH. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Telephone 0117 732 5000. Monday December 8, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

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103 and All Roads 0330 446 910
National Highway 0330 446 910
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Roads 0330 446 910
Weather 0330 446 910
Roads 0330 446 910

Weather by Fax

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Jinks 103 0330 446 910
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"Cryptic blend of flavours"



General: Showery and windy, although the east of Scotland and England will be mostly dry with sunny spells and a few isolated showers.

Elsewhere very sunny spells will be short-lived, and some of the showers heavy. Frequent and heavy showers over Northern Ireland and the west and north of Scotland, with hail and thunder possible, and winds close to gale force. Later, steadier rain will return to northwest Scotland.

Yough, north and northwest winds will have more wind and rain.

London, SE, E, NE England, E Anglia, E Midlands: Early rain will clear away in the morning, to be followed by mostly dry conditions with sunny intervals. Breezy SW wind. Max 12C (54F).

Cent S, Cent N England, W Midlands: Mostly dry with sunny intervals, isolated showers later. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

Channel in SW England, Wales, NW England, Lakes, Lake: Bright intervals and showers, some heavy and squally. Strong to gale force SW or W wind. Max 11C (52F).

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Changes to chart below from noon: Low A moves north and Ss. Low B drifts slowly northeast, maintaining central pressure. Low C runs quickly northeast towards UK, deepening slightly.



Legend: Cloud cover: 0 = clear, 1 = few, 2 = some, 3 = much, 4 = overcast. Temperature: 10C = 50F, 15C = 59F, 20C = 68F, 25C = 77F, 30C = 86F, 35C = 95F, 40C = 104F, 45C = 113F, 50C = 122F, 55C = 131F, 60C = 140F, 65C = 149F, 70C = 158F, 75C = 167F, 80C = 176F, 85C = 185F, 90C = 194F, 95C = 203F, 100C = 212F.

Legend: Wind: 0 = calm, 1 = light, 2 = moderate, 3 = strong, 4 = very strong, 5 = gale, 6 = storm, 7 = hurricane, 8 = typhoon, 9 = super typhoon, 10 = super storm, 11 = super hurricane, 12 = super typhoon, 13 = super storm, 14 = super hurricane, 15 = super typhoon, 16 = super storm, 17 = super hurricane, 18 = super typhoon, 19 = super storm, 20 = super hurricane, 21 = super typhoon, 22 = super storm, 23 = super hurricane, 24 = super typhoon, 25 = super storm, 26 = super hurricane, 27 = super typhoon, 28 = super storm, 29 = super hurricane, 30 = super typhoon, 31 = super storm, 32 = super hurricane, 33 = super typhoon, 34 = super storm, 35 = super hurricane, 36 = super typhoon, 37 = super storm, 38 = super hurricane, 39 = super typhoon, 40 = super storm, 41 = super hurricane, 42 = super typhoon, 43 = super storm, 44 = super hurricane, 45 = super typhoon, 46 = super storm, 47 = super hurricane, 48 = super typhoon, 49 = super storm, 50 = super hurricane, 51 = super typhoon, 52 = super 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typhoon, 340 = super storm, 341 = super hurricane, 342 = super typhoon, 343 = super storm, 344 = super hurricane, 345 = super typhoon,

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

BACK IN THE RING

Herol Graham risks a last hurrah
PAGE 26

FLYING HIGH

Eagles soar to first cup success
PAGE 38

BREMNER REMEMBERED

Rob Hughes mourns a fine and fiery footballer
PAGE 31

PLUS
New Zealand beat England - at netball
PAGE 36

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 8 1997

A CUP TIE TO SAVOUR AND A MATCH TO REMEMBER

Goliaths set for early showdown

By Matt Dickinson

CHELSEA versus Manchester United. At last it was worth sitting through the televised hype that has become an unnecessary accompaniment to every football draw as the FA Cup-holders, Chelsea, were paired with the FA Cup Premier League champions for a simultaneous third-round tie that truly whets the appetite. With Ruud Geul's team, United's closest challengers in the league, it would be hard to imagine a more mouth-watering clash.

After the complications of groups, seeds and pools at the World Cup draw in Marseille last week, it was a relief to return to the simple act of pairing two teams. The Football Association could not resist trying to dress the occasion up in pointless razzmatazz, but in pairing Chelsea against United, the draw did at least produce a game to savour.

Everton versus Newcastle United and the intriguing meeting of Tottenham Hotspur and renaissance Fulham also caught the eye, but none could distract from the Stamford Bridge collision that will add another twist to the two teams' battle at the top of the Premiership. The draw, conducted at the FA's headquarters in Lancaster Gate, gives Chelsea the chance to avenge their 1994 Cup Final and 1996 semi-final defeats. The sides have met once in the league this season, United coming from behind to draw 2-2 at Old Trafford.

Dennis Wise, who captained Chelsea to victory at Wembley last season, believes the holders will relish a game that is sure to be one of the weekend's televised fixtures. "It's at home, so that is good," he said. "We've always done well against them, so we're looking forward to it. I think they will be a little bit disappointed, especially that they have to play us at our place. It will be interesting."

Apart from the clash of the top two, there are four other all-Premiership ties - Liverpool versus Coventry City, Derby

County at home to Southampton, Barnsley against Bolton Wanderers and Newcastle away to Everton.

The irony was not lost on the injured Newcastle striker, Alan Shearer, who made the draw with the former England international, Niall Lothian. It was in a third-round tie that truly whets the appetite. With Ruud Geul's team, United's closest challengers in the league, it would be hard to imagine a more mouth-watering clash.

Perhaps most fascinating will be the meeting at White Hart Lane, where Tottenham, struggling to avoid relegation, and humiliated 6-1 by Chelsea on Saturday under the new leadership of Christian Gross, will meet a Fulham side being dramatically and expensively rebuilt by Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins. The duo have already spent more than £4 million of Mohamed Al Fayed's money in their ambitious attempt to lift the club from the Nationwide League second division into the Premiership, and the trip to Tottenham will give them a good idea of how far they have come.

Tottenham's north London rivals, Arsenal, have a home tie with Port Vale, who lie in mid-table in the first division. Of the non-League sides left in, several could face Premiership opponents if they can win their second-round replays. Emley, who drew 2-2 at Lincoln City on Saturday, could travel to Upton Park to meet West Ham United and Ilkeston Town will visit Crystal Palace if they can improve on their 1-1 draw at Scunthorpe.

Keith Alexander, manager of Ilkeston, who are second in the midland division of the Dr Martens League, said: "It would be a great day out for the club and fans but promotion is our priority. Nobody will remember the Cup run if we fail to go up."

Basingstoke Town will visit Leicester City if they beat Northampton Town in a replay.

INSIDE

Obituaries 23
Wimbledon fire 28
Liverpool ghosts 29
Negri on mark 30
Results and tables 32

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

Chelsea	Manchester United
Everton	Newcastle United
Fulham	Tottenham Hotspur
Leicester City	Basingstoke Town
Liverpool	Coventry City
Derby County	Southampton
Barnsley	Bolton Wanderers
Newcastle United	Everton



'I believe we could and should have won'

Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, says that the draw with New Zealand could prove to be a turning point for domestic rugby

THIS HAS been a watershed for English rugby because it's a different game to the one that many leading players are used to on a weekly basis. It has been drawn out long enough for everyone to realise that is how the game has to be played. We have shown, in part, that we are capable of doing that - now we have to build on it and get better and I feel this England side will do that.

On this journey, we have shown the ability to listen to what is being said and implement that on the field, so, to that extent, it's no great surprise that our last performance has been our best one. That first half was a reflection of the way that we wanted to play. We wanted more width in the game and the thing that pleased me most was that we kept hold of the ball. That gives you the ability to put sides under pressure, no matter who you are playing against.

It has been tough playing these four matches [against Australia, South Africa and twice against New Zealand], but it has opened everyone's eyes to what is required. The base fitness level is not what it needs to be to sustain that game,

TV Action Replay 33
Erica Wagner 33
Epic England 35
Gerald Davies 35

but the players can build on that. New Zealand stepped their game up in the second half and, for 25 minutes, we were under enormous pressure - but we have to learn to absorb that because, in the nature of the game under modern laws, good sides will keep possession. We did that and put points on the board - three tries more than we scored in the previous three games put together and I believe that we could, and should, have won. We have yet to learn how to kill sides off.

The message at half-time was not to defend the lead, but to go on attacking, even if it did not seem like that. The worst thing to have done would have been to sit back on our [14-point] lead.

In the second half, we turned ball over a bit too much and I was guilty once of kicking the ball away when it was on to handle. Anything outside our own 22, we must keep the ball in hand, build fifth, sixth and seventh phase play and get into the opposition. When we did that, even the All Blacks' back three looked vulnerable all of a sudden.

Yet, out of the four games we have played, this was the most satisfying and the commitment over four weeks has been fantastic. We have the manpower; now we have to create the environment in which we can play successfully. We have to start structuring our season on our terms, establish what is best for England, so that we can move forward not merely to match the likes of New Zealand and South Africa, but to overtake them.

Dallaglio reveals his power and leadership as England earn a 26-26 draw with New Zealand at Twickenham

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BOXING: VETERAN LIKELY TO EARN THIRD ATTEMPT AT WORLD TITLE AFTER UNIMPRESSIVE VICTORY

Graham in line for crowning glory

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HEROL GRAHAM is on course for a world championship bout early next year after his win over Vinny Pazienza of the United States, at Wembley Arena on Saturday to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) International super-middleweight title with a unanimous points decision.

Graham and his promoter, Frank Macdonald, said that they will be happy to challenge Robin Reid, of Runcorn, the WBC champion, or Joe Calzaghe, of Wales, who holds the World Boxing Association belt, but Frank Warren, who promotes the two champions, has said that he is not interested in Graham. Therefore, it is most likely that Graham will meet Charles Brewer, of the United States, the International Boxing Federation champion, in Sheffield in March.

While Brewer has a punch, he does not have a chin, so, after a career lasting 19 years, Graham could finally lift the world title that he came so close to winning against Mike McCallum in 1989 and Julian Jackson in 1990.

It would be a fitting conclusion to the career of a man who was Britain's best boxer in the Eighties, but one can only view with some trepidation his courage and determination, at 38, to keep chasing the big pay-day and the world title that should have been his a long time ago.

The bout on Saturday produced little solid boxing. It was a chance for Graham to sell himself to the American public, for the bout is going to be shown on USA Television, the main boxing channel in the United States — but he did not take it. Throughout, he remained unable to commit himself to a fight unless forced to. It was only Pazienza's posturing and late rushes that brought the bout to life and excitement to the smallest crowd for a boxing promotion at Wembley, around 3,000.



Graham, right, lands a blow to Pazienza's head during their super-middleweight title bout at Wembley Arena. Photograph: Mark Thompson / Allsport

Brendon Ingle, Graham's former trainer, watched the bout on television with some concern for his former charge's health. "He's no longer the same fighter," Ingle said yesterday. "He shouldn't be fighting after being away for years. He could get seriously hurt."

"I made him the winner by ten rounds, but he showed very little and Pazienza couldn't do much either because he's a shot fighter anyway. When it was all over, you could see the relief on Herol's face. And the people

all cheered because they were relieved as well, because every time Pazienza came close to hitting him on the chin, it was panic-button time for Herol."

It is clear that Graham has little left in him to continue boxing with any authority. He knows it, too. At his age, he does not have the reflexes, power, stamina or chin to get stuck in. That is why he does not have positive views about his chances against men such as Calzaghe and Reid. While he might just manage to outsmart Reid, it is unlikely that he would last more than two

or three rounds with Calzaghe.

Graham, a southpaw, was lucky that Pazienza was not able to find the way past his leading hand early on. When the American did break through, in the eighth, ninth and tenth rounds, Graham retreated in confusion and was in danger of being stopped. Had the bell not come to his rescue in the tenth, it would have been all over.

Even though Graham was winning clearly, he never looked happy at the thought of engaging the shorter Ameri-

can in a brawl. As a result, few punches landed in the first five rounds, which Graham took simply by doing more than his opponent. It was only in the sixth that Graham landed the first good blow, a left hook that left Pazienza staggering. Now and then, an uppercut and a hook of the old Graham flowed, but they were not in sufficient quantities to confirm a revival.

As the bout entered the middle rounds, it became clear that a well-placed punch from the American could, at any moment, turn the fight his

way. What was particularly depressing about Graham was his lack of nerve to commit himself. He relied on feeble flicks to keep Pazienza out. Even when he had the American in trouble against the ropes, his left eye almost closed, Graham stood back.

The memory of the bout that left him senseless on the floor as he came in to finish off Jackson six years ago in Spain, as well as the blow from Howard Eastman that knocked him out in the gymnasium before his comeback, still haunt him.

Ageing warrior still pursues elusive dream

Everyone wanted to be Herol Graham's friend again. He was a somebody with a future, instead of a nobody with a past. There was even a solitary autograph hunter waiting for him in the shadows of the multi-storey car park as midnight approached.

Boxers, young enough to be his son, ignored the jobs-hunters attempting to clear Wembley Arena. "Respect, man, respect" said one, gently punching Graham's closed fist. "Slick, dude, slick," said another. "One for the old guys," said a third.

"Was I all right?" was 17 Graham asked, with a child-

like vulnerability that exposed the superficiality of the studied poses being struck around him. Men who once refused to return his telephone calls slapped him on the back. They spoke of world titles, of contracts and money. They promised redemption, rather than ridicule.

More than an hour had passed since Graham sustained his comeback by beating a caricature of misogyny called Vinny Pazienza. He was still wearing his plaid boxing trunks, scuffed red boots and a bloodstained T-shirt impregnated with the sour smell of stale sweat.

Next year, Graham's twenty-

Michael Calvin hears what is driving Graham on, apart from the money

eth in professional boxing, will offer him a final chance to avoid the stigma of being the best British fighter never to have won a world title. He is, to use his own phrase "38 going on 28", but the fear is that he will find himself 48, going on 78.

Bitter experience cannot prevent his senses being heightened by dangerous emotions. "You know what I missed most of all?" he said, recalling the darkest days, when he was refused a licence

to box by the British Board of Control. "The adulation. OK, we all need the money, but that's really why we do this."

"The buzz of standing there, when the final bell goes, is just brilliant. You close your eyes and listen to the crowd. You know what they want from you and you know that you've given them what they want. Nothing can replace the sort of feeling I got out there tonight."

It was not without its price. In the short term, Graham is a puppet. He posed naked, apart from the meaningless bauble of his World Boxing Council international belt, to assist a promotional campaign that would have disgraced the warped mind of a dysfunctional adolescent.

In the long term, there are still those who insist he is a tragedy waiting to happen. He may have the washboard stomach of a younger man, but he is over-reliant on reflexes that wither with age. His friendly, articulate manner merely emphasised the poignancy of the threat.

"Life's a risk, isn't it?" he said when confronted by the potential calamities of cumulative punishment. "The fact they wouldn't give me my licence for so long may even work out in my favour. I know

my time is limited. People were sceptical, but I knew I had it in me. Patience is a virtue, my greatest strength."

Graham is a bad television movie waiting to be produced. He was an identikit local hero, an icon in a disadvantaged community. An emotional man, who boxed with the stylish caution of a matador and spoke with a dreamlike candour, he was a Fied Piper to boys schooled on the backstreets of Sheffield.

A young Yemeni, Naseem Hamed, watched him in St Thomas' gym, in the scruffy suburb of Wincobank, from the age of seven. Hamed flies to the United States today, to

defend his world title, as the embodiment of Graham's unfulfilled dreams. He is a multi-millionaire, a man who has bucked the system that enslaves his former idol.

Graham's decline can be traced to a single right-hand punch, by Julian Jackson, which knocked him senseless when he was on the verge of winning the world title in 1990. His life was splintered by envy. He brooded on the money he had misplaced.

Loans, given to supposed friends, were not repaid. A jewellery business failed. An alternative career, in pantomime and children's television, was stillborn. His next plan, to qualify for a teacher training course by taking O-levels in maths and English, was put on hold when his comeback was controversially sanctioned.

There are few happy endings in boxing. It is inherently exploitative, ultimately self-destructive. Graham is allowed only marginally more dignity than the ring girls, who paraded wearing red latex, or three balls of cotton wool.

"Our job is get this man money," Frank Macdonald, the man responsible for a promotion that glorified violence and sexual subjugation, said. Graham, sitting next to him, stared ahead impassively. "I just want to be a champion," he said, later. "Then I get my money and I get out..."



Graham poses wearing his hard-earned belt

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hong Kong title falls to Nobilo

GOLF: Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand, won the Hong Kong Open yesterday to complete the first back-to-back successes of his career. Nobilo, winner of the Mexico Open on his previous outing, had a 68 in the final round to win by five strokes from Kang Wook-soon, of South Korea, who was the leading player on the Asian PGA Tour last year. Nobilo began badly, dropping two strokes in the first three holes, but opened up a decisive lead with an eagle at the 493-yard 9th hole and a birdie at the 10th. "That's the first time I have backed up one tournament win with another and it feels great," Nobilo said.

Greg Chalmers, who began the last round four strokes behind Robert Allenby and Stuart Appleby, took the £300,000 Players' Championship in Brisbane yesterday. His first win on the Australasian Tour. After a final round of 68, he finish at 12 under par, one shot ahead of the reigning Australian Masters champion, Peter Lonard. Chalmers, who played the last nine holes in 31, had an eagle at the 11th and a birdie at the 17th, helped by a favourable bounce off a television tower.

Costly slip by Olsson

BOBBIER: Sean Olsson, of Britain, lost his top-three place in the World Cup standings yesterday after a poor second run in the four-man competition in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Olsson and his Zanussi crew of Dean Ward, Courtney Rumbolt and Paul Atwood, clocked the fourth-fastest time on the opening run of 53.80sec. They began the final run with the second best start-time of 4.84sec and were in a medal position until it all went wrong as Olsson lost control in the middle section. He finished sixteenth overall and slipped from second to sixth in the standings.

Taylor takes his chance

CYCLING: Ian Taylor, a specialist mountain biker ranked eleventh in England, made a solo attack before the halfway point to win the 13-mile South of England cyclo-cross title at Southampton yesterday. Taylor, who was forced into the pits to change a wheel at one point, covered the seven-lap, mixed terrain circuit in 57min 50sec. Second, 39 seconds behind, was Dean Barnett, an early leader until he was hampered by a broken shoe plate. Roger Hammond, the titleholder, who begins his professional career in Europe next month, withdrew before the race because of illness.

Hingis mastered

TENNIS: Anke Huber, right, of Germany, survived a match point to beat Martina Hingis, the world No 1, in a thrilling five-set final of the inaugural Masters of Champions tournament in Frankfurt yesterday. Huber, beaten by the Swiss in the group stage, looked to be down and out on several occasions, but came through in win 2-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 and collect a cheque for about £240,000.



Cambridge inch ahead

ATHLETICS: Cambridge avenged last year's defeat in the University cross-country race on Wimbledon Common when Alex Hutchinson, a Canadian, took first place closely followed by Dan Leggett, last year's winner, and Huw Lobb. Cambridge now lead the series by 54 wins to 53. Oxford continued their domination of the women's race however, with Katy Skorpupa, a junior international, Kelly Wilder and Clare Martin taking the top three positions.

Hinton's hat-trick

RUGBY UNION: North Midlands celebrated their fortieth season of county rugby by winning the county championship final 29-21 against Gloucestershire at Twickenham on Saturday. Three of their four tries were scored by Leigh Hinton, the Moseley fly half. Gloucestershire established an early advantage, with 11 points coming from the boot of Ben Bosely, before North made sure of the game midway through the second half.

Belles recapture lead

FOOTBALL: Doncaster Belles went back to the top of the women's premier league after a 3-1 victory at Croydon yesterday. Belles came back from a goal down, with Karen Walker scoring twice and Vicky Exley hitting a superb solo goal. Arsenal secured a 2-1 victory away to Liverpool FC Ladies with goals from their England pair, Natasha Dely and Carol Harwood.

Fuller goes solo

RUGBY FIVES: Ian Fuller, ten times the national doubles champion, won his first national singles title at 44 when he overcame Neil Roberts, the defending champion, in the final. Fuller having won the first game comfortably, Roberts came back at him in the second, but at 10-10 Fuller broke his opponent's resistance and won five points in as many rallies to take the title.

HOCKEY: PREMIER DIVISION TITLE-HOLDERS SLIP BACK TO SIXTH AFTER NARROW DEFEAT

Crutchley's five goals stretch Cannock's lead

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

WHILE Cannock drew four points clear at the top of the premier division in the National League yesterday, Reading, the title-holders, dropped to sixth position after losing 4-3 to Old Loughtonians.

A five-goal haul in two days by Crutchley took his total to 21, one behind Nicol, of Surbiton, as Cannock blazed their way to a 5-0 home win against Barford Tigers and a 6-1 away victory over Doncaster.

Jason Lee scored three goals from open play for Old Loughtonians with Scott Smith adding to the score. Pearn replied with two goals for Reading and Slay chipped in from a short corner.

East Grinstead pushed themselves up to second position with a 6-2 home victory against Hounslow. Barnes scored from open play for East Grinstead and added another goal from a short corner.

After defeating East Grinstead 2-0 on Saturday, Teddington were leading Southgate 3-1 yesterday with 16 minutes left. Two goals by Woods from

short corners, however, enabled Southgate to square the match at 3-3.

All Teddington's goals were scored by Conway. In the nineteenth minute he rounded off a long run by Kernode, increased the lead from a short corner six minutes after the interval, and hit the target again a minute after Simons had converted a penalty stroke for Southgate, whose match on Saturday against Hounslow was postponed. One of the umpires, Ray Allen, was involved in a road accident and could not reach the venue in time.

Canterbury's challenge was somewhat hampered on Saturday by the loss of Triggs, their goalkeeper, who was injured in the match against Old Loughtonians and taken to hospital. The score was 4-4 when Triggs left the field and Canterbury lost 7-4 with a substitute goalkeeper. Canterbury's luck changed at Guildford yesterday where they won 6-2.

Surbiton and Havant shared the lead in the first division by the end of play yesterday.

Gallant Doncaster fail to halt Slough's surge

BY CATHY HARRIS

NO CLUB has scored more goals than Slough, who are also the only side that can boast a 100 per cent record, as the women's national league moves into the mid-winter break, and they tightened their grip on the premier division with a comfortable 5-1 win at Doncaster.

Rarely threatened and always dominant, their impressive line-up of internationals has blown away the opposition. Only Clifton can catch them and that is a tall order. Miller, the Clifton's captain and England and Great Britain midfielder, said: "If we were three points behind Slough, it may be possible to overhaul them, but because we're five ahead, it's extremely difficult as we'd have to rely on other teams taking points off them and I can't see that happening."

Doncaster restricted Slough to a slender 1-0 lead at the interval, but a familiar goal spree after the break saw the champions take their tally to 46 goals in eight matches. The Great

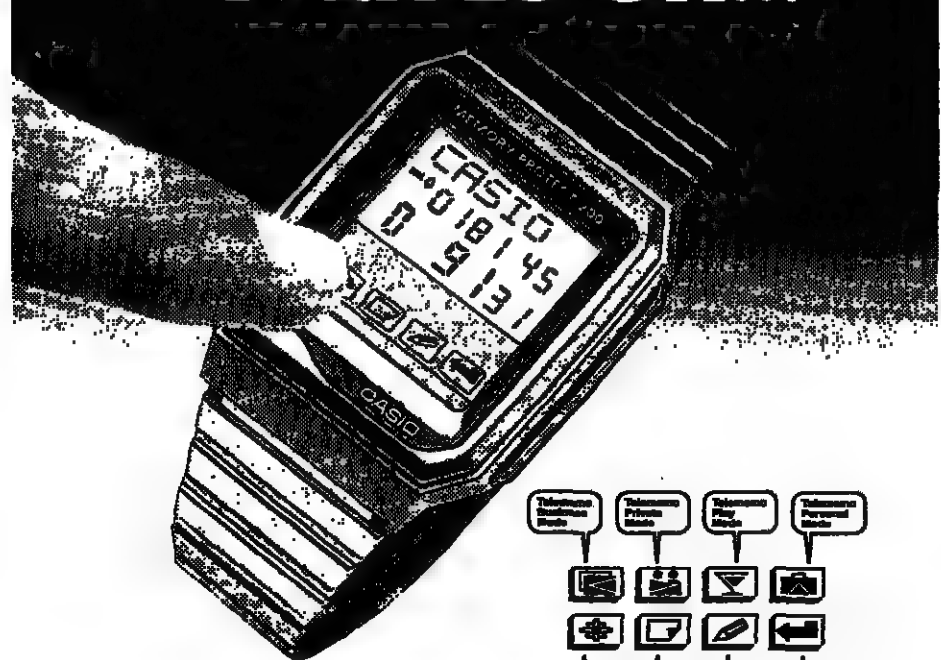
Britain pair, MacDonald and Nicholls, each scored a brace with the three-times Olympian, Brown, netting a penalty corner two minutes from time.

Marston-Smith continued her prolific form with another hat-trick for Clifton, who came from behind to beat Trojans 5-1. Martin and Rayden completed the scoring as Marston-Smith, with 13 goals, stepped up her challenge to Nicholls (14) as the league's leading scorer.

Leicester kept alive their hopes of an immediate return to the premier division when they extended their unbeaten run at the head of the first division with a 3-0 win at Wimbledon. A first-half goal by Knott and penalty corner goals after the break by Holwell and Miller, one of five current England players in the Leicester squad, sealed victory.

In the second division, Woking, who drew 0-0 with Ealing, regained pole position after Old Loughtonians slipped to third spot after their 2-0 defeat at Aldridge.

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Pakistan opening pair pile on agony

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

AAMIR SOHAJIL and Ijaz Ahmed, the Pakistan opening batsmen, hit contrasting centuries to heap more embarrassment on West Indies on the second day of the third and final Test in Karachi yesterday.

Their 298-run partnership, a record for Pakistan's first wicket against West Indies, helped their side to 327 for one, a lead of 111, before bad light forced an early close.

In Georgetown, Guyana, in 1977, Pakistan's first wicket did not fall until 219 runs had been scored, but three batsmen were involved — Majid Khan (167) and Zaheer Abbas (80) adding 159 after Sadiq Mohammad (22) had retired hurt with the score at 60.

Yesterday was the first time in 243 Tests that both Pakistan openers had scored centuries in the same innings. Amir struck a dashing 160 and Ijaz a more watchful 127 not out. Amir, who had ended a run of 17 Tests without a century by scoring 160 in the second Test in Rawalpindi, faced 254 balls and hit 21 fours in an innings lasting just under six hours.

"It is a beautiful batting pitch and I am disappointed at missing out on my second double century," Amir, who scored 205 against England in 1992, said.

West Indies gained their solitary success on a demoralising day when Amir was leg-before as he missed a pull when Chandrapaul's leg spin was pressed into service.

Ijaz, opening in place of Saeed Anwar, who is nursing a stiff neck, graided his way to his eighth century in 42 Tests. So far, he has hit a six and 11 fours from 284 balls.

"I have been short of runs and when I went in it was in my mind to score a century. I am elated," Ijaz, 29, said.

The batsmen found few problems against the four-pronged pace attack. Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, tried everything he knew to force a breakthrough, but not until Amir started hitting some wild shots after tea did a wicket look likely.

Pakistan won the first two Tests by an innings and victory here would gain them the first clean sweep over West Indies achieved by any country for 69 years.

Scoreboard, page 39

Warwickshire's Brown takes seven wickets in warm-up matches

England continue in winning vein

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN LAFORDE

ENGLAND beat Pakistan A with nearly 22 overs to spare here yesterday. It followed that 35-run win over the same opponents on Friday, when they had to work rather harder for their success.

Adam Hoolioake, who is making a habit of such things, hit the winning runs after England had lost five wickets, about three more than they should have done. Knight and Ben Hoolioake were run out and Hick pulled a long hop to mid-wicket. After these collywobles, the captain decided that, with Thorpe poking about at the other end, the silliness had to stop.

Stewart, with great fluency of stroke, set England on their way with 33 and Knight also timed the ball well until Butt, fielding his own bowling, cheekily threw down the stumps at the non-striker's end.

So well did England bowl in the morning, however, that they did not really get the full value of batting second under lights. Instead, they stayed behind afterwards for some additional practice in conditions similar to those that they can expect to find later this week.

Bowling first this time, though no toss was called, they ran through the Pakistanis for 117 inside 39 overs. There were three early wickets for Dougie Brown, three late ones for Robert Croft and, in between, two each for Ben Hoolioake and Mark Ealham, who gave away only 17 runs in ten overs and was named man of the match.

If England had a man of the week, it would probably be Brown, who took seven wickets in the two games, all but one of them with the new ball. Yesterday, he was successful in his first and second overs, as Stewart held catches behind the wicket, and struck a third time in his sixth over, when Stewart caught another.

With five Surrey players in the side, it was proving difficult to keep them out of the action. No sooner had Hoolioake minor replaced Martin than Thorpe, at slip, and



Brown, the England spearhead, yells an appeal against Naseer Ahmed, who was caught behind

Stewart, once again, were holding catches to give him wickets. Only Youhana, who made 39, took the game to England until Farhat, the wicketkeeper, played a few shots towards the end of the innings.

Brown, 28, has taken his chance with both hands and is improving with the years. In retrospect, it may have been wiser to select him for the A tour that goes to Kenya and

Sri Lanka early in the new year because it is likely that he will be summoned to join the party that completes the West Indies tour with five one-day internationals. Not will he be alone. If this team plays decently in Sharjah — and there is a good "feel" to it — England have the makings of a one-day side independent of the Test team.

They have found a nice balance in the bowling. Besides Brown, who has the knack of taking early wickets, Ealham showed his mastery of deceit in this type of cricket. He mixed slower balls and yorkers and curved the ball away from the line of middle stump. The elder Hoolioake is another clever chappie and Fleming, who was absent yesterday with sore ribs, is a canny bowler at the death.

It has proved a worthwhile trip, however brief. The Pakistan authorities laid on excellent practice facilities and the team hotel was absolutely top notch. Even though England won both games fairly easily, there was nothing second-rate about the opposition. The players had obviously practised diligently in Manchester and came out here with their minds on the job.

On Saturday, an intrepid group, including five players led by Adam Hoolioake, ventured off on rickshaws to explore the old part of this famous city and visited the mighty fort in the heart of it. There, and outside the nearby mosque, where upwards of 75,000 people can gather, they mingled with the locals, who are always curious to see white faces, and posed happily for photographs.

There was also some unintentional humour. When David Lloyd heard that a crowd of Wembley proportions could assemble at the mosque, he asked: "Do you get many City fans?"

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN A

Babar Zaman c Stewart b D R Brown 1
Sami Youhana c Thorpe b B C Hoolioake 36
Naseer Ahmed c Stewart b D R Brown 39
Sana Chayum c Stewart b B C Hoolioake 12
Rahmanjan Farhat c Knight b Croft 31
Saeed Butt b Stewart 10
Af Raza b Stewart 10
Saeed Butt c and b Stewart 10
Saeed Butt not out 10
Total (92.3 overs) 117

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-38, 4-58, 5-71, 6-84, 7-85, 8-108, 9-112.

BOWLING: Martin 7-1-19-0, D R Brown 7-2-25-0, B C Hoolioake 7-0-32-0, Stewart 10-4-13-0, Croft 10-0-10-0, A J Hoolioake 2-1-5-0.

ENGLAND

A D Brown c Youhana b Agha 18
M J Stewart b Stewart 36
M J Stewart not out 30
G P Thorpe not out 10
G P Thorpe c Youhana b Agha 9
B C Hoolioake not out 1
A J Hoolioake not out 7
Giles b S, w 4, no 4 12
Total (5 wickets, 28.1 overs) 116

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-72, 3-84, 4-87, 5-88.

BOWLING: Agha 10-0-27-1, Stewart 10-4-22-0, Jaffer 10-0-25-1, Shafiq 10-0-22-1, A Raza 6-1-12-0.

Umpires: Mohammad Aslam and Ashraf Zaidi.

Rain puts dampener on India's hopes

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAIN, once again, washed away India's hopes of securing a victory in their three-match series against Sri Lanka yesterday when the final day of the final Test in Bombay was brought to a premature end. India had reduced the touring side to 166 for seven in their second innings after tea when a light drizzle stopped play with 12 overs still to be bowled.

The result was a draw, just as in the previous two Tests, Sri Lanka having staged off defeat at Mohali, while the second Test, at Nagpur, was washed out after just one innings.

At the close yesterday, Hashan Tillekeratne (18) and Chaminda Vaas (9) were at the crease attempting to frustrate the India spin bowlers. Anil Kumble and Rajesh Chauhan, when the umpires called off the match. Both bowlers claimed three wickets each, but could not help India achieve the victory that they sought.

Sri Lanka, needing 333 to win, had resumed on six and their opening batsmen, Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu, put on 51 in the first hour. By the end of the morning session, however, both men had gone. Atapattu fell to a catch in the deep off Chauhan for 31 and Jayasuriya went in similar fashion to Kumble for 57.

On 87 for two at lunch, Sri Lanka moved to 106 before Aravinda de Silva was caught by Chauhan off Srinath for 18 and Mahanama fell just before tea to a controversial leg-before decision by Steve Bucknor, the umpire.

Sri Lanka then abandoned the run chase and were now intent on avoiding defeat. Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was bowled by Chauhan for 12. Kumara Dharmasena was caught at silly point by Asharuddin off Kumble for eight and Lanka de Silva was snapped up at second slip by Venkatesh Prasad to give Kumble his third wicket.

Then the rain came and the match was abandoned as a draw, as was the series. Sachin Tendulkar, the India captain, said afterwards: "My bowlers had struck rhythm and brought India close to a win." Ranatunga said that life for his batsmen was difficult at the wicket.

Australia squeeze home thanks to Waugh

MARK WAUGH scored his eleventh one-day international century in typical spectacular fashion as Australia beat New Zealand by three wickets with two balls to spare at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

There were some late alarms for Australia, who were beaten by South Africa in their opening World Series game, after they had looked to be cruising home at 202 for one, 59 runs short of victory with more than 13 overs left. The dismissal of Mark Waugh, who made 104 off 113 balls, started a collapse that saw five wickets fall for 57 runs.

Australia began assertively and Michael Di Venuto, who made 77, and Mark Waugh shared an opening stand of 156. However, New Zealand bounced back to dismiss Adam Gilchrist, for 29, Greg Blewett, for 10, Ian Harvey, for three, Steve Waugh, for seven, and Shane Warne, also for seven.

Michael Bevan was stranded at the non-striker's end on 25, but he was not needed as Andrew Bichel came in with two runs required and glided the first ball that he received to the boundary.

New Zealand, who won the toss, made 250 for seven after an aggressive opening stand between Nathan Astle and Matthew Horne. They were particularly savage on McGrath, whose first four overs cost 32 runs.

The first wicket fell when the score was 77 and Astle went on to make 66 before he was dismissed. There were good contributions further down the order from Stephen Fleming, the captain, who made 61, and Roger Twose, who hit 26 runs late in the innings.

The likely composition of the Eng-

land Under-19 side for the first international against South Africa Under-19 next week became clearer after the second day of the three-day match against Boland, Graeme Swann, of Northamptonshire, the off-spinner, and Chris Schofield, of Lancashire, the leg-spinner, looked far more threatening than their seam bowling team-mates.

However, Boland finished the day on 182 for three, 111 behind England, who were bowled out for 233 just before lunch. Giles Haywood, of Sussex, made 52.

SQUASH

Jansher's decline hastened by Nicol

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN BOMBAY

PETER NICOL'S year could scarcely have generated a finer conclusion. Holding aloft the massive silver trophy that comes with the Mahindra Challenge title, he surveyed the 2,000 supporters who had come to witness his third successive victory in thirteen and acknowledged that this might be the turning point of two careers — his and Jansher Khan's.

Nicol beat the world No 1 9-15, 15-9, 9-15, 15-12, 15-5 in 96 minutes, making charge after trailing 8-5 in the fourth game. The Scot, 24, has an extraordinary tolerance for the heat and humidity of this seaboard city, where even the locals were complaining last week of the unseasonal high temperatures that reigned late into the nights of activity on the transparent Perspex court mounted on the pitch of this famous cricket arena.

Other players, all well used to the extremes of a PSA World Tour that plays from

Helsinki to Heliopolis, were dropping off the pace from day one here. Even the world champion, Rodney Eyles, of Australia, conceded one game when his shoes became too sodden with perspiration to allow safe movement.

In the final, Jansher, plainly not fully recovered from a long match against Jonathon Power, of Canada, in the semi-finals, was blocking and delaying from the very first rallies. "I am not giving any cheap strokes here," the referee, Chas Evans, of New Zealand, told him early on when refusing anything more than a let on the exaggerated and delayed backswing that has regularly earned the Pakistani easy points and short restful rallies in recent years.

True to his promise, Evans kept the pair working and even issued a conduct warning to Jansher for deliberately wasting time. As Jansher, 28, wilted in the fourth game, the economical movement of the younger man was still carrying him at full power around the court.

The Scot has now beaten Jansher the past four times they have met, including a £3,000 head-to-head challenge of the sort that the world No 1 used to regard as light breakfast fare, and there was a strong feeling here after the final that Jansher's legend may have moved into its terminal phase.

"I have worked so long and so hard for that," Nicol said. "The World Open will be on this court, at this venue, next year. I guess that establishes the shape of 1998 for me."



Nicol: powerful

SNOOKER

Pressure on Hendry to succeed

FROM PHIL YATES IN BINGEN

STEPHEN HENDRY, who has not won an overseas world ranking tournament since the 1994 European Open in Antwerp, needs to end that surprisingly barren spell at the German Open this week to silence those who claim that his domination of the game is drawing to a close.

By reaching the final of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship eight days ago, Hendry increased his lead in the updated Embassy world rankings to 9,755 points — hardly evidence of a deepening crisis — yet Hendry's detractors say defeats by Ken Doherty, in the final of the world championship in May, and by Ronnie O'Sullivan, with the United Kingdom championship title at stake, suggest otherwise.

Hendry has not won a tournament since the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters in March, his past four appearances in finals have resulted in defeat, he was beaten in the first round of the Grand Prix in October and, most startling of all, has constructed only one century break in competition this season.

If he is to regain the winning habit in Bingen, he will be forced to do it the hard way. His rival for a place in the quarter-finals will be Jimmy White, whose form has improved considerably.

O'Sullivan, attempting to defend a title successfully for the first time in his career, plays James Wattana, of Thailand, tonight.

ROWING

Searle passes test in tactical triumph

By MIKE ROSEWELL

FOR many, Greg Searle came of age as a sculler on Saturday, while Harry Mahon, his chief coach and a New Zealand coach, was at Twickenham.

Searle, who converted to sculling from rowing only a year ago and has a Henley win and a world championship bronze medal to his credit already, was undertaking his first head-to-head race over the Putney to Mortlake championship course in the Thames World Challenge "race of champions". He passed the test with honours.

Before the five-abreast race, Searle confided his tactics of "getting ahead and hitting a good rhythm". Getting ahead was not easy and, at the mile, Searle was only inches ahead of Merlin Vervoorn, of Holland, the 1996 winner, Karsten Nielsen, the world lightweight champion, from Denmark, and Martin Kettle, another Briton. Giovanni Calabrese, the champion of Italy, was further adrift after some erratic steering. Then Searle, on

Surrey, produced a classic burst to Hammersmith Bridge, where he led by 8sec.

That done, Searle, the heaviest in the race at 96.8 kilos, settled into his "good rhythm", generally at 29, but he could not break completely clear and won by just 6sec from Nielsen, Kettle and Vervoorn. Almost as exhausted as he was when he won his first Olympic rowing gold medal in 1992, he said that his first experience of a 44-mile sculling race was "not much fun really, but I'm sure it's better if you win it".

Kettle, the second-lightest competitor at 82.6 kilos, in spite of a hidden water bottle at the weigh-in, was a good third, not the "cannon-fodder" that he had spoken of before the race.

Peter Haining, the triple world champion, founder of the race but a non-qualifier for the first time since 1993, looked almost as exhausted as the competitors after his first experience as an umpire.



Searle hits a good rhythm to establish an early lead

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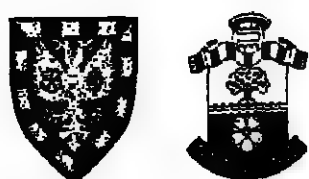
TECHNOLOGY

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Wimbledon supporters continue vociferous protest against club's move to Dublin

Earle settles unsatisfactory encounter



WIMBLEDON 1
SOUTHAMPTON 0
By Brian Glanville

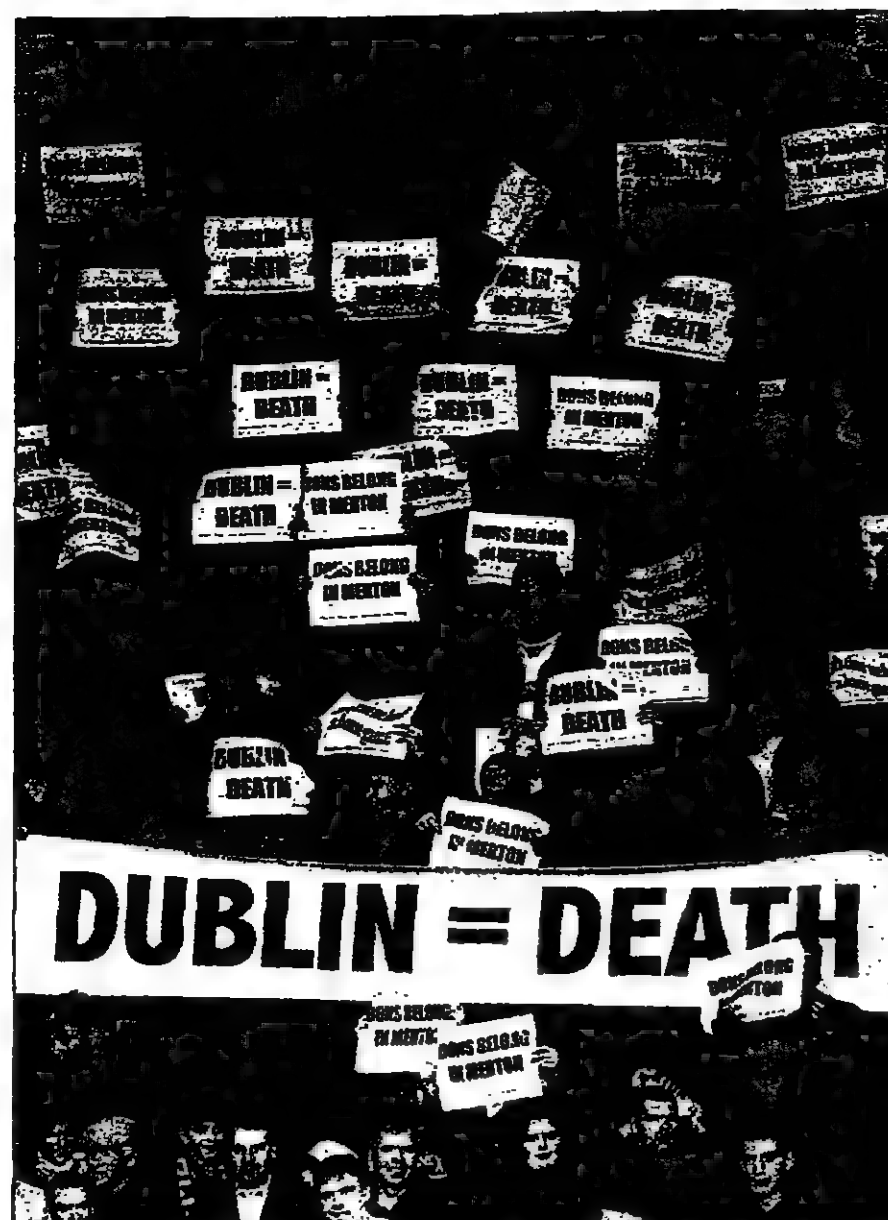
BLEAK stuff on a bleak afternoon, hardly enlivened by the persistent chants from Wimbledon's faithful few of: "We'll never go to Dublin." If this kind of games does go to Dublin, it is debatable whether Dublin will go to the Dons.

Wimbledon probably deserved their narrow victory. They did, after all, score a goal and might well have had a couple more in the second half with shots that were on target. Southampton, though they had three strikers on the field for most of the second half, did not once in that period force Neil Sullivan, in the Wimbledon goal, to make a save.

Wimbledon's goal arrived after 17 minutes. Ståle Solbakken, their new Norwegian striker, who looks a shrewd, intelligent player, crossed from the right. Gayle got his head to it. Richardson failed to get it away and Robbie Earle, whose recent appearances have been as substitute for Jamaica, intervened to score.

There was little else to remember in a tedious first half. A powerful, long shot by Cort had Jones diving to save. There were a couple of interesting moments from Le Tissier, but sporadic is the most applicable adjective for his present performances and he was taken off early in the second half.

Was it a wise move? He had hit one shot from afar that had Sullivan turning the ball for a corner and, shortly before half-time, Le Tissier suddenly, in that cool and casual way of his, pivoted to hit a first-time shot on the bounce that caught Sullivan unawares, only for the ball to go just over the bar.



Wimbledon supporters make their feelings known, left, but at least they were cheered when an error by Richardson allowed Earle to score the only goal



would still have seemed more logical to have brought on another striker in Clarke.

David Jones, the Southampton manager, said: "You can't make schoolboy errors and that's what we did." It was still a little puzzling that Jones should decide to withdraw Le Tissier when his chief complaint was: "You've got to deliver one ball in 90 minutes and they couldn't deliver one ball into the box."

Le Tissier, even on an off day, is still capable of that. "Le Tiss has got himself into a bit of a rut. He's not having the best of times," Jones said. "You've got to keep working at your game. He's got to do something special, like maybe score a goal or have a good game, to get out of it. Players play on confidence and, at the moment, he's a little bit low."

Commenting on the demonstra-

Bremner dies	25, 31
FA Cup draw	25
Negri strikes	30
Results and tables	32

tion by the supporters, Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon co-owner, said: "I completely sympathise and concur with those feelings. If I was a fan, I would probably want to do the same thing. It's a tragedy, but we've had that tragedy for 20 years."

"I am cautiously optimistic that we can do something with our council. If we can, we will — but if we can't do that, we will continue to prepare for Dublin. What else can I say? I can't see such a move being before three or four years or having a decision before a year or 18 months — but it's something we need to look at seriously."

"I had what I consider to be a successful meeting with the leader [of Merton Borough Council] and I am cautiously optimistic that something can happen."

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): K. Cunningham, C. Cort, D. Jones, M. Hughes, S. Solbakken, M. Austin, R. Earle, C. Cort (sub: A. Kinnear, M. Gayle, sub: V. Jones, 80). SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones, D. Doot, K. Morrison, C. Lush, R. Bainton, K. Richardson (sub: R. Bainton, 60), C. Palmer, M. P. Taylor, sub: E. O'Sullivan, 55, M. O'Sullivan, D. West, R. Davis, sub: M. West.

Coppell's pride in contrasting virtues

THERE was a story in one of the papers on Saturday that a club in Serie A was "interested in" Neil Shipperley, the Crystal Palace forward.

Far-fetched? Even Steve Coppell, his manager, described Shipperley after this match in terms that suggested faint praise, such as "hard-working". Coppell saved adjectives such as "subtle" for Michele Padovano, the former Juventus player, who moved from Italy to South London last month.

However, if the rumours of closer links between Palace and Juventus prove accurate, who knows what may happen? Picture the scene in the office of Marcello Lipi, the Juventus coach: "Ah, come in. Mr. Del Piero, have a seat. We're thinking of sending you to our South Norwood branch for a few weeks; for the experience, you know. A chap named Simon Rodger is coming over here to have a go at your job."

Such were the flights of fancy that occupied the mind during the duller stretches at Filbert Street on



LEICESTER CITY 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 1
By Nick Szczepanik

Nevertheless, Padovano's first goal for Palace, a low, angled drive between Keller and his near post three minutes before half-time, looked likely to win the day, despite the early dismissal of Edworthy for a kick at Ullathorne. "I was so proud of what they did. It's a word I don't often use in football management," Coppell said. "Sixty-odd minutes with ten men was a tremendous effort."

Shipperley could have made it even better on the hour, when Warhurst's pass gave him a chance, but Keller blocked his low shot and, in the final minute, Muzzy Izet was allowed to collect a short corner before bending a right-foot shot beyond Miller to deny Palace their sixth FA Cup final Premiership win of the season. "A great goal to equalise at a time when all looked lost," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said.

Padovano later accepted the tactical reason for his substitution and spoke diplomatically of the differences between football in Italy and England. "When you concede a goal in the last minute, of course you call it bad luck," he said, "but we defended too deep. We should have continued doing what we did in the first half, but it's easier to say than to do when you are down to ten men." Not a bad appraisal. He might make a manager one day. Of Palace, perhaps. Or Juventus.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — S. Prior, M. Elliott, P. Karmann — R. Savage, S. Campbell (sub: S. McIlhenny, 70), N. Lennon, M. Izet, R. Ullathorne (sub: S. Wilson, 51) — S. Glanville (sub: J. Watts, 62), G. Fenton.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K. Miller — A. Lush, P. Warhurst, H. Henderson — M. Edwards, C. West, S. Rodger, N. Emberton (sub: G. Davies, 73), D. Gordon — N. Shipperley, M. Padovano (sub: J. Fullerton, 52).

Referee: U. Fennell

New goalkeeper helps lift Everton out of the mire

HAD it not been for the heroics of both goalkeepers, Leeds United would have won this game comfortably. It was naturally easy to forgive the man charged with patching up Everton's uncertain defence, but Nigel Martyn, the Leeds goalkeeper, ought to have known better than prevent his side going behind. Up against it, Leeds have been dead in recent weeks. He dubiously refused to allow them that luxury.

To Martyn's anti-hero for Leeds, Thomas Myhre, from Norway, played the hero for Everton. His name will not be well known on Merseyside, but it could become so. He replaced Neville Southall, the club's veteran of well over 700 games, who was nursing sore ribs but could have played, and leapt around with all the enthusiasm of a man making his first appearance. He wanted to make his mark — and did.

But for him, Everton would surely have leaked goals again, yet he kept his finger firmly in the dyke. Teams at the foot of the FA Cup Premiership are supposed to lose to those in fourth place, but, heartened by the unquenchable spirit of their newcomers, Everton brought an end to their long run of defeats and lifted themselves off the bottom rung.

Myhre spoiled the home side's



LEEDS UNITED 0
EVERTON 0
By Simon Wilde

two choicest opportunities. The best came near the end, when Leeds, as is now customary, were at their most purposeful. Kewell had a golden opportunity to score from close range, but found his shot blocked on the line. The second-best chance came much earlier, in the eighth minute, when Wallace, with no one else to beat, hit Myhre on the legs. A few minutes later, Kewell was denied with a reflex save.

Arguably, though, the turning point of the game was not these highly commendable efforts by the Everton newcomers, but the moment shortly before half-time when Martyn brilliantly saved a well-directed penalty from Gary Speed, a former Leeds player. Wetherall had hooked down Barnaby after he had darted inside

him. Had Speed scored then, Leeds might have been roused to assertiveness, as had happened spectacularly in their three previous Premiership games. As it was, George Graham, their manager, had little to shout about at half-time.

His side spent most of the second half looking more like Everton than Everton and finished grateful to have retained their long unbeaten home league record against Everton — which dates back to 1951.

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, refused to lavish praise on Myhre, 24, who joined the club from Sarpsborg late last month. "It is difficult when Neville is available and you do not play him," he said. "Thomas had played one reserve game for us."

"You could say it was a gamble or that he only lived up to his potential. I don't want to go overboard about him after one game."

But Kendall's post-match body language was more eloquent than any words: he found it hard to stop hugging his new acquisition.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): M. Hughes — G. Halls, D. Wetherall, L. Richardson, D. Robertson — G. Kelly, L. Bowyer (sub: J. F. Hasselbaink, 70), A. Haden, G. Halls — H. Kendall, R. Wallace. EVERTON (3-5-2): T. Myhre — C. T. R. D. Wilson, C. Short — A. Hinchcliffe, G. Farrelly, G. Speed, D. Wetherall, M. Ward — D. Ferguson, N. Barnaby. Referee: P. Dunlin

manager has problems, too. Atherton, his captain, is suspended and Nicklas Alexandersson, his new signing, will also miss out. The Sweden international, purchased from IFK Gothenburg on Friday, did not receive international clearance in time to play.

Atkinson, though, is untroubled. "We have won three games in a row and there is a confidence in the squad to keep that going."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pearson — I. Rodon, J. Newson, D. Walker, M. Pennington — G. Whittingham, W. Collins, J. Magilton, R. Hinchey — R. Scott, P. D. Collins. BARNLEY (4-4-2): L. Lewis — N. Ewer, A. de Zeeuw, P. Madsen, D. Barnard — M. Budge, J. Bownard, E. Trinder, N. Redman — A. Ward, A. Ludlow. Referee: G. Willard

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm.

PREDICTION: Exciting game, home win.

Wright rediscovers his golden touch

IGNORING her father's pleas to approach Newcastle United's forlorn players for autographs, the little girl broke free of his hand and yelped: "It's the man with the gold smile I want."

She was referring to Ian Wright and, after the forward's winning goal for Arsenal at St James' Park on Saturday, he did indeed have a smile so golden that it lit up a sullen North East evening.

It was not just his fine dental work, either. Wright has been a troubled figure for two months, secretly fearing that his powers have ebbed away. Wright has been a Popeye without his spinach, a goalscorer without a goal.

He last scored on October 4 and already the obituaries had been written. Many thought that, at 34, Wright was yesterday's man. It took him 35 minutes to prove them wrong. It was a simple goal — a check in the box to lose his marker and then a late run to the near post to meet Bergkamp's cross from the left and steer it into the net from close range.

"I was beginning to question myself," he said. "It wasn't the lack of goals as such, but the way I had played. There was a player out there leading the line, but it wasn't Ian Wright."

Against Liverpool, it all came to a head. Maybe I had lost confidence, but I wasn't doing what I should have been doing. I wasn't working hard and I hadn't earned the right to score goals. Our fans let me know and I sat down and had a long look at myself. I have changed things and I have now got a goal."

After his goal, Wright set off on a drunken canter, his Arsenal shirt dragged over his head to reveal a T-shirt underneath displaying the words "At Last".

Before Saturday, the England forward seemed to have lost something of his aggressive edge since being embraced by Glenn Hoddle.



NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
ARSENAL 1
By David Maddock

interest. He got into one quite spectacular tussle with Stuart Pearce, an England colleague, that made the Newcastle defender see every shade of red. With mischievous judgment, Wright danced by Pearce's wild challenge and almost added a second goal in the second half.

Inspired by Pearce's close and often intimidating attention, Wright looked a different player. It is too simplistic to merely say that the forward should retain his natty streak, but Wright requires an edge to his game and aggression offers it.

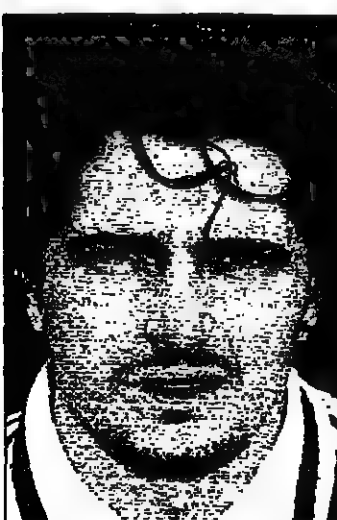
So did the Newcastle defence. Once again, they conceded a goal by failing to command forwards around the penalty area. This time it was Pistone who dallied criminally to allow Bergkamp's cross to Wright. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, must be driven to distraction by such generosity.

It was not a classic game and with Wright reduced and Asprilla returning from injury, a mistake was always the most likely source of a goal. Lucky for Arsenal, then, that the Newcastle defence is so well equipped to provide one.

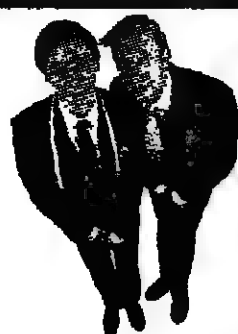
Dalglish spoke of his own culpability in his side's downfall, but playing Asprilla when the forward was still not match fit. The truth, though, is that there was nothing much to choose between two sides of limited depth in a fairly drab affair.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S. Hoddle — J. Watson, D. Peacock, S. Pearce, A. Pistone — R. Gillespie, R. Lee, D. Bury, J. Barnes — J. D. Tomkinson (sub: T. Kewell, 70) — P. Asprilla (sub: P. Abbott, 62).

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — I. Dixon, A. Adams, M. Keown, N. Winstanley, R. Parker, E. Post, D. Platt, M. Overmars — I. Wright, G. Bergkamp. Referee: S. Dunn



Padovano: diplomatic



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Cole turns away in triumph after his close-range finish had given Manchester United a 3-1 lead that undid their dominance at Anfield on Saturday. Photograph: Shaun Botterill / Allsport

Anfield finds parade of ghosts from seasons past a disturbing experience

GHOST stories are all the rage on Merseyside. Vampires have been seen in Lodge Lane, apparitions in Wavertree and caped figures spotted flitting from grave to grave in a cemetery off Longmoor Lane. On Saturday morning, at a kick-off time so early that the creatures of the night had hardly had time to slide back into the shadows, more than 40,000 people at Anfield got to watch a real, live haunting.

There, in this stadium that has seen so many triumphs, so many great afternoons and evenings of footballing glory, the home supporters saw a living, moving, flowing vision of those great teams of the Seventies and Eighties, a reproduction of the sides that made Liverpool the club that was the envy of British football, a club so consistently dominant that everyone assumed their success would go on and on and on.

And, as they watched this Manchester United team that Alex Ferguson has built, this team stocked with confident, striding young idols such as David Beckham, Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt, the poignancy the home supporters felt was almost tangible. The sight of the majesty of

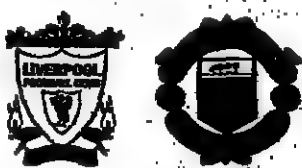
their greatest rivals brought the memories of their own former greatness flooding back and emphasised the futility of their own hopes for renewed conquests.

Liverpool are not a bad side, certainly not bad enough to be lying in eighth place in the FA Cup Premier League, but they have got to a stage now where, with their hopes of the championship fading with every week, their only hope of salvaging some pride comes from the chance of beating United.

On Saturday, they found out just how far short of that goal they were. The three goals that they conceded all came from poor defending, but even without them, United had already proved themselves the better side, more confident, more incisive with the ball, quicker in their movement, parsimonious with misplaced passes where players

such as McAteer, Kvarme and Bjornebye were prodigious. Liverpool worked hard. They pressed and they harried. They have four outstanding players — McManaman, Fowler, Redknapp and Ince, when he returns from suspension — but that is not enough any more, not what they are used to or what they need. United have top quality in just about every position and, at this stage of the season, no one can live with them.

The visiting supporters, of course, were quick to sense the dismay of the rival fans. "Three-one in your Cup Final," they taunted after Andy Cole, as sharp and as predatory as he has been for United, had put the game beyond doubt with his second and his side's third goal 15 minutes before the final whistle. As the Liverpool



LIVERPOOL 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 3

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

supporters fled the stadium in the dying seconds, the refrain "Out-classed by the champions" assaulted their ears.

"If they continue to do what they are doing at the moment," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said of United, "there is not too

much hope for the rest. I will always be biased and think that the great Liverpool teams were better than this United team is now, but they are very successful and they have a real chance of doing well in Europe this year.

"Over all the years that we were successful, they were desperate to do us and the boot is on the other foot at the moment. We have got to strive to get closer to them. It is possibly even worse than losing to Everton because we know they are our major rivals. You have got to give Fergie great credit, because he stuck in there when it wasn't going well. Since he stuck in there, he has brought them on leaps and bounds, the bastards."

Evans's face creased into a smile at that last appraisal of the United manager, but on the touchline

during the game, his features had been contorted by disappointment. Almost from the beginning, with Sheringham a font of astute lay-offs and red-flags for Cole and with Giggs a constant threat down the left, United seemed superior.

What threat Liverpool produced usually stemmed from McManaman and he nearly broke the deadlock six minutes before half-time when a sublime one-two with Fowler left him bearing down on Schmeichel. Rather than shoot, he hooked the ball across goal and it bounced tantalisingly across the six-yard box before being hooked to safety.

Soon after half-time, though, United took the lead. Kvarme dithered on the edge of his own area, Cole was on him in a flash, stole the ball, danced left to right across the area and fired a low shot

past James. After 60 minutes, Liverpool equalised with a confident Fowler penalty after Butt had brought Owen down, but United refused to be rattled.

Beckham scored their second with a wonderfully executed free-kick from the edge of the area after Matteo had brought down Cole and then Cole sealed Liverpool's fate with his second, a close-range prod after Sheringham had expertly flicked on a corner from Giggs. The goal was a microcosm of a partnership that appears to be developing into one of the most potent in the Premiership.

"At the moment, everything is rosy," Ferguson said, "but we are ready for the rainy day, too." On Merseyside, they will keep hoping they can stave off the downpour, but as the glory days fade in the memory and United continue to emphasise their present advantage, some umbrellas are already going up.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — J. McAteer, B. Kvarme (sub: P. Schmeichel), G. Hargreaves, G. B. Bjornebye (sub: K. Fiedler, 77) — D. Leeson (sub: C. McCarthy, J. Redknapp, S. McManaman — R. Fowler, M. Owen.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, H. Berr, G. Pallister, P. Neville — D. Sutchman, R. Butt, R. Johnson, R. Giggs — E. Sheringham, A. Cole.
Referee: D. Elbery.

Thompson's red-card tactic nearly works

PERHAPS it was tactical. Perhaps someone on the Bolton Wanderers bench, seeing Blackburn Rovers' 11 men making mincemeat of their 10, thought: "They do say it is harder to play against ten." And ordered Alan Thompson to do the decent thing and trot off.

In which case, give credit where it is due, it nearly worked. Bolton almost snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat and nobody broke the party line afterwards that it was a bad decision ref, the lad should not have gone and, no, we are not going to admit that we were responsible.

Then again, perhaps it was just stupid. Perhaps, as if trailing by two goals after 19 minutes was not bad enough, Thompson made things even harder for his team by launching a bizarre, two-footed tackle on Kenna, the Rovers full back, near the halfway line, prompting a miffed referee to sprint over and dismiss the miscreant, although whether for dangerous play or safety is a moot point.

In which case, Blackburn lost their way and, in the end, were lucky to win a game that could have been a rout.

Consider the evidence. They were a goal up after two minutes, a Duff corner from the right and some duff defending giving Gallacher a sitter on the edge of the six-yard box. They went two up after good work from Ripley on the right and more dreadful defending led to another sitter, this time for Sutton. It might have been three or four. Then Thompson, Bolton's best player, did the dirty and Blackburn, perceptibly relaxed.



BLACKBURN ROVERS 3
BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By Peter Robinson

up the other end to make it 3-1, Wilcox did the honours. It should have been 2-2.

An injustice? Probably, but while Bolton protested afterwards that Thompson had been harshly treated and they are not a dirty team etc etc, they would do well to address the problem rather than excuse it. Already this season, they have had five players sent off, including four in 17 league games, an average of almost one in four. If they keep this up, they can complete the full set of 11 by May, including a goalkeeper if they want to do it properly. They will, as sure as eggs are eggs, get relegated if they insist on playing a quarter of their campaign in the FA Cup Premier League with ten men while everybody else uses 11.

And Blackburn? Roy Hodgson, the manager, said: "The sending off probably helped them more than it did us. If we had played 11 men, it would have been an easier passage for us than it turned out."

One vote for tactical, then.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — J. Kenna, S. Hendrick, C. Hendry, G. Grant — S. Ripley (sub: L. Bolton, 77), M. Wilcox, T. Sharnley (sub: G. Flood, 77), D. Duff, J. W. Wilcox (sub: G. Flood, 77).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Bennett (sub: G. Ward, 87), G. Bennett, A. Todd, M. P. M. Wilcox — P. Francis, A. Thompson, S. Sales — N. Bates, D. Holdsworth (sub: A. Gurney, 66).
Referee: M. Riley.

Collymore increases home interest rate

IT WAS not the best goal that Stan Collymore will score — a half-stuffed, left-footed effort from 20 yards that took a generous deflection off Gary Breen and then arced around the despairing defence of Steve Ogrizovic — yet it was enough to erase the tag, albeit perhaps temporarily, of £7 million misfit eager to ease the nagging fears of Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, and the growing disenchantment of the supporters.

In the twentieth minute at Villa Park on Saturday, in the fixture that Coventry City have not won in 24 attempts spanning 61 years, Collymore doubled his tally since his much-trumpeted seven-figure move from Liverpool during the summer. It was only his second goal in 18 matches and his first since August 27 — a run of 13 games without a legitimate bulge of the old onion bag.

The goal could signal an upturn in Collymore's fortunes. It could be the catalyst that makes his inclusion in the England squad more realistic, it could help to take him on to the World Cup finals. And then it may not, such are the mysteries of the grey matter beneath his crooked dome. Who knows what lurks within such a fragile, brooding mind?

At least Collymore showed an interest. He chased, tackled and harried; he ran at the opposition, sprayed passes around and made life difficult for his markers. Amid the niggle and occasional nastiness, amid the six bookings and two Coventry dismissals, he got involved.

"The work side of his game was good,"



ASTON VILLA 3
COVENTRY CITY 0

By Russell Kempson

Little said. "I don't know whether it had all been getting to him, but the goal should help. It's a start."

Though Collymore's resurgence tapered off towards the end, he earned rich appreciation from the fans who had endured so much drizzle for so long. Coventry followers should perhaps be encouraged, too. They competed vigorously and, had Williams not grappled with Collymore on the stroke of half-time, collecting his eleventh booking of the season and a sending-off to go with it, they might have stayed in the hunt.

Even when Hendrie lashed in his first Villa goal, they still held out hope. It was only when Joachim's cross drifted in past a static Ogrizovic and Breen was ordered off for shoving Charles in the face that the flames were extinguished. Would Breen be punished? "He might as well," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "It all goes into the pool for Christmas, anyway."

Good humour abounded, despite the often fierce nature of the earlier combat, yet still Little urged caution. "The pleasure will only really come when we get good results on a regular basis," he said. Collymore, after experiencing a rare glow of satisfaction this weekend, should take note.
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Bensch — U. Eriqso, S. Sherrin, G. Scott — G. Charles, M. Draper, S. Gregson, A. Wright — D. Young (sub: L. Hendrie, 34), S. Collymore (sub: S. Girdle, 88), S. Williams (sub: J. Hendrie, 77).
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrizovic — R. Shaw, G. Breen, D. Williams — R. Wilson, T. E. Schmitt, P. Fisher (sub: G. Smith, 74), N. Wilson (sub: M. Hall, 66), D. Burrell — D. Huddley (sub: S. Haworth, 69), D. Dublin.
Referee: G. Bloor.

Redknapp rounds up full list of suspects

MORE than an hour had passed before Harry Redknapp appeared to dissect an eighth away defeat. Time was not a great healer. "Horrendous, horrendous," the West Ham United manager declared. "What he must have said in the immediate aftermath of the game is too grisly to consider."

Blame, naturally, focused on Ludek Miklosko, the goalkeeper, who endured one of those afternoons that can break a man. After ten minutes, he failed twice to deal with a hanging corner that Wanchope had turned goalwards and contrived to knock the ball into his own net. Struridge, the nearest Derby County attacker, refused to claim the goal. Yet worse befell Miklosko in the 49th minute. Rather than launch a goal kick, he attempted to chip the ball to Pearce, the defender to his right. It fell perfectly for Struridge, who cut inside a startled Ferdinand to score from 16 yards.

When goalkeepers err, the consequences cannot be disguised. Other culprits are less conspicuous and there was more to this result than the flaws of one man. "Four or five of our players who have had good publicity lately were not in the game," Redknapp said.

Harrison, a surly figure, had a single discernible chance, which Poom saved. Lazaridis, suffering from illness, was ineffective along the left and was pulled out of the Australia squad for the Confederation Cup by Redknapp.

Of most concern, however, was the performance of Rio Ferdinand. It may sound philistine, but the youngest app-



DERBY COUNTY 2
WEST HAM UNITED 0

By Richard Hobson

ears too gifted for his own good. He reads the game like a veteran and the timing of his tackles, in an upright position, is invariably perfect. Yet he will not become the great player predicted until he recognises his own mortality.

"Rio took some liberties," Redknapp said with a sigh. "He did some good things, but he presented Derby with three or four chances. There are times to play and times not to play." In the first half, a loose pass fell to Baiano and led to a clear opportunity for Struridge. Miklosko, the villain of the afternoon, rescued Ferdinand with a marvellous save.

In the 83rd minute, facing his own goal with Struridge in pursuit, Ferdinand tried to flick the ball over his head and turn. Instead, it hit Struridge and prompted another good chance. Efficiency is everything for defenders. Bobby Moore would have put the ball into the stand when necessary and Ferdinand is no Bobby Moore. Not yet.

He would do well to scrutinise the performance of Stimson, the Derby defender, who is also prone to moments of over-confidence. In his first game for two months, he was firm, routinely dismissive of Harrison, but steadfastly balanced and composed. Most important, he gave Derby the leadership that they have lacked.
DERBY COUNTY (2-1-4-1-2): M. Poom — G. Rowett, I. Struridge — C. Daley — R. Kozak, S. Grevie (sub: J. Lewis, 34), C. Lacey, C. Powell — F. Baiano (sub: D. Powell, 82).
WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-1-1): L. Miklosko — I. Pearce, R. Ferdinand, D. Unsworth — T. Bracken (sub: S. Abbott, 46), P. Lammers, S. Lomas, J. Morrison, S. Lomas (sub: P. Alves, 74).
Referee: J. Harrison.
Referee: D. Elbery.

Chelsea's half-dozen multiply Gross's error of judgment



Gross: not blameless

WHEN the size of Manchester City's problems struck a traumatised Steve Coppell, he fled the job after 32 days rather than risk his health and sanity. Christian Gross will do well to last that long.

Certainly, no one could blame the new Tottenham Hotspur head coach if he departed White Hart Lane this morning as he so bizarrely arrived, slipping discreetly off to Heathrow on the Piccadilly line. In the course of 90 horrible minutes on Saturday, he appeared to have developed a nervous tic, a twitch of the right cheek muscles, and Coppell's example would suggest that he should make regular visits to his GP.

Gross began the afternoon with arms aloft in response to a standing ovation. He finished it with a quickstep down the tunnel after the biggest humiliation of his managerial career. A meticulous researcher of the club's past, he

will probably not need telling that this was Tottenham's heaviest defeat at White Hart Lane since 1935. Nor will he need — or want — reminding that they finished that season with relegation.

Gross claimed that this embarrassing display revealed little that he did not already know about the squad he has inherited — in which case, one wondered why he accepted the job in the first place. Turning Tottenham around will take a clear-out similar to that undertaken by George Graham at Leeds United, the banishing of unwilling workers and the signing of trusted men. Time and confidence, though, are already slipping away and a defensive crisis looms with Ramon Vega facing suspension, John Scales fracturing his cheekbone and Sol Campbell still injured.

"The first half was good, the second half was bad," the Swiss



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
CHELSEA 6

By Matt Dickinson

said. It was a Gross understatement. His team's collapse amid eerie silence bordered on disgrace and it was all the more remarkable for the fact that, for 30 minutes, they looked capable of securing an FA Cup Premier League victory. Twice, De Goey saved brilliantly from Ginola, and even when Tottenham fell behind after 39 minutes to the first of Tore Andre Flo's

hat-tricks, they were quickly level through Vega before the break.

Forty-five minutes and a gruesome surrender later, a snarling mob of supporters had gathered by the tunnel, thrusting their shirts at Tottenham players and shouting: "Where's your pride?" Some undoubtedly deserved it, but Gross, too, must shoulder blame for the scale of this defeat.

Organisation is said to be his strength, so why did he dismantle a central midfield pairing of Caldwell and Nielsen, who had at least matched Di Matteo and Wise tackle for tackle, and end with Anderson and Ginola, who watched Chelsea's midfield, and the game, pass them by? Chelsea, suddenly allowed the freedom and space denied them in a combative first half, made Tottenham-pay dearly.

Not that this was Chelsea at their best. The previous week, they had

swamped Derby County in a display of overwhelming power. This was a harder-fought victory, reflected by Ron Gull's uncharacteristic dashes to the touchline to berate defensive sloppiness.

The goals were largely the product of little bursts of counter-attacking and there is no better exponent of the quick break than Dan Petrescu. The Romanian was outstanding and one moment of breathtaking skill proved why Glenn Hoddle, the watching England coach, has been reluctant to assume unbridled progress through group G in the World Cup finals.

Petrescu scored the goal of the game, beautifully lifting a volley over Walker as he burst into the penalty area to meet Leboeuf's flighted, 40-yard pass. By then, Chelsea had already resumed the lead through Di Matteo's header and Tottenham had waved the

white flag. Nicholls scored one to add to the hat-trick by Flo that fully vindicated Gull's surprising decision to change a winning team. However much he shuffles his pack, Gull comes up trumps.

Nothing could sour Chelsea's victory, not even claims that police were to investigate a racism Le Sant for alleged gestures to Tottenham fans. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, said that he would not be mentioning the incident in his report and the Football Association is unlikely to take the matter further. One would have thought that the home supporters who reported the incident would have had more important things to worry about.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): Walker — S. Carr, J. Scales (sub: R. Allen, 70), R. Vega, C. Wright — R. Flo, A. Nielsen (sub: D. Anderson, 59), C. Caldwell, A. Shaw — D. Grevie, L. Pearce, R. Lomas, M. Debooy, C. Balaun (sub: M. Nichols, 18) — D. Petrescu, D. Wilson, G. Di Matteo, G. Le Sant.
Referee: D. Elbery.

Bremner revelled as hardman with a soft centre

Rob Hughes remembers the Leeds United and Scotland legend, who died yesterday

Billy Bremner, whose fiery tenacity was synonymous with the Don Revie era of Leeds United, died of a heart attack yesterday morning. He was 54 and the shock of his passing at such an age is compounded by the method with which he lived his life — never yielding to a bigger man, never succumbing to the adversity of disappointment, never accepting what fate seemed to have in store. Knock down Billy Bremner and you were bound to feel the after-effects.

Peter Lorimer, the winger who played under Bremner's captaincy at Leeds and for Scotland, summed up the reaction yesterday. "I was told he had a minor heart flutter and they were just keeping him in for observation," he said. "It seems unbelievable: he was fit, he lived life to the full, sport was what life was all about to him. I can't take it in."

That reaction was expressed north and south of the border as the news spread from Doncaster Royal Infirmary that Bremner, having been admitted on Friday, was dead. He had been the epitome of the one-club man. He played for Leeds United from 1959 to 1976 — 769 games with 115 goals.

He had 54 caps for Scotland, helped Leeds to win promotion from the second division in his first full season with the club, then endured and enjoyed the decade between 1964 and 1974, in which Leeds twice won the championship, were six times runners-up and competed in nine cup finals in England and in

Europe, winning four of them.

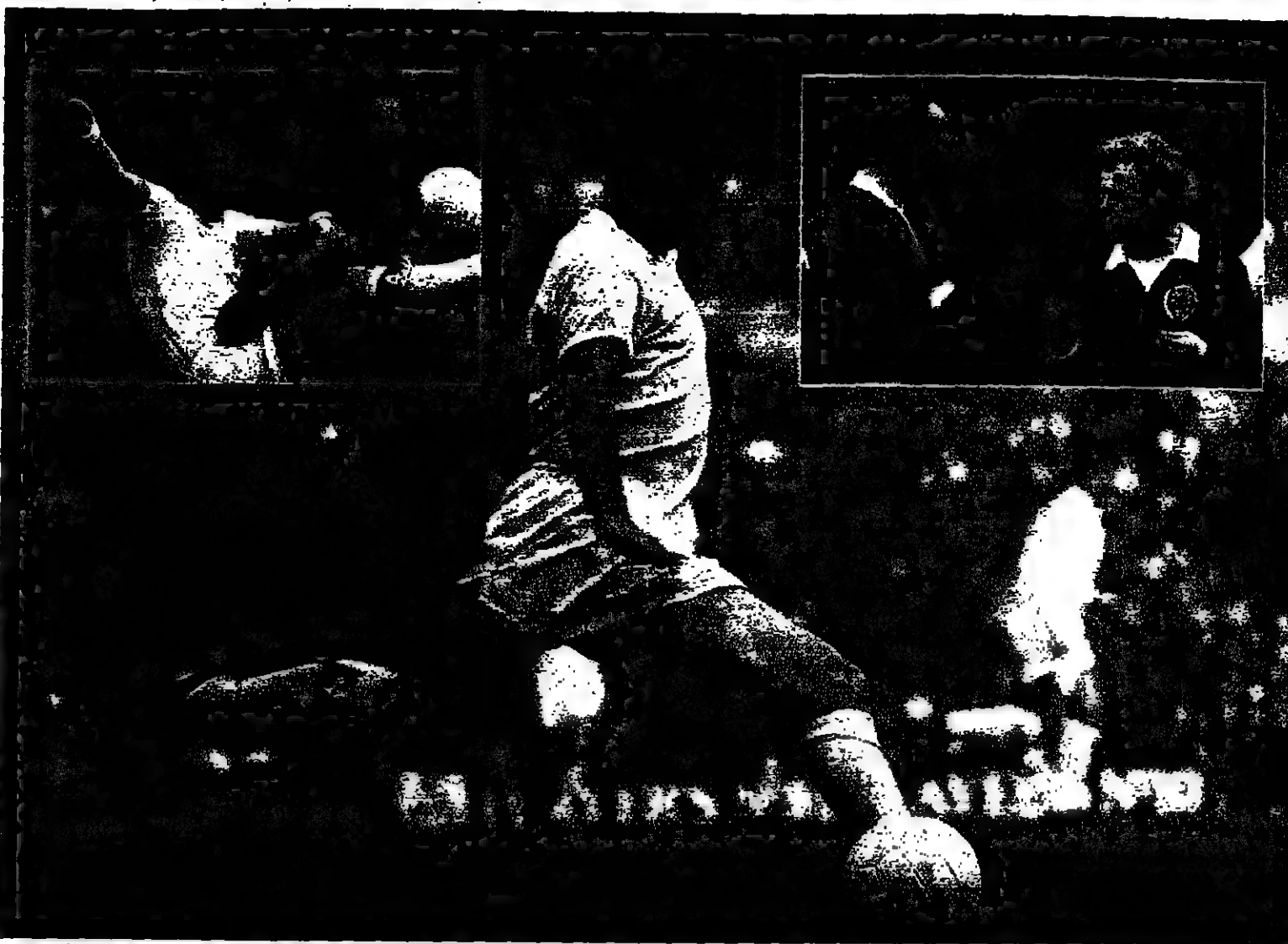
Together with Johnny Giles and Bobby Collins, Bremner formed a bantamweight midfield trio that was majestic in passing, cruel to the point of spite in kicking back, astute and in command of more games than any other triumvirate. When, in 1970, Leeds overextended themselves in chasing the championship, the FA Cup and the European Cup and ended with nothing, Bremner was named as the Footballer of the Year.

This player, who would dart devilishly into the opponents' penalty area, who could score goals that regular strikers perhaps never sensed, was lauded by the finest writers of the day. "Billy Bremner is ten times of barbed wire," Michael Parkinson enthused.

"Above all, Leeds have Bremner, the best footballer in the four countries. If every manager in Britain were given his choice of one player to add to his team some, no doubt, would toy with the idea of George Best, but the realist, to a man, would have Bremner." Thus wrote John Arlott.

Of course, Revie admired and squeezed every ounce of beligerent command out of his captain. "Billy was difficult to handle when he came down from Scotland, but what a player," he once said.

"Once you had his trust, he'd go through walls, windows and fire. I gave him responsibility in the hope that it would control the hellfire in him and although it never quite subsided, I don't think anyone



Bremner had great style and skill, but his fiery temperament, right, and hard, sometimes cynical tackling, left, earned him a tough reputation

would argue about the quality."

Revie and Bremner successfully sued a Sunday newspaper that claimed they had attempted to bribe Wolverhampton Wanderers players. It was never proven, but there

were sides to Bremner, that I can vouch for, that people found beyond credibility. He was a most charitable man.

I recall him running from the training ground one morning and speeding away in his car. His wife had

phoned the dressing-room to say that she had in their home the grandmother of a boy who was dying. The grandmother believed that a visit from his hero could rally him.

"Why should I tell you about that?" Bremner

responded when I wished to discuss it. "We all in our lives do personal and private things that are not for anybody else to know about. The lad was really poorly, he had pneumonia." The boy was in an oxygen tent and Bremner,

sitting at his bedside, cajoled and begged him to fight. The next day he had another phoned call; the hospital said the patient had rallied, but Bremner finished our discussion of the hospital visits by saying: "Sometimes we can be

of use, many times not. I think all players have been asked to try to help someone who loves the club come out of a coma. I've tried and it taught me how useless we are, how we are just normal people, when I failed."

He did not fail, this ultra-competitive man, this football warrior, in action. He classed himself as a realist — the very reason that he once said was behind his decision to forsake Celtic, which had talented players to spare. As a manager, he fought on a shoestring with Doncaster Rovers, and he took his turn as manager of Leeds, another relative failure among former Revie

'Once you had his trust, he'd go through windows, walls and fire'

boys trying to revive the golden years at Elland Road.

He liked a cigarette and a glass of whisky, but he liked nothing more than football. Charlie Nicholas, one of those wayward Scottish players who squandered greater ability than Bremner made use of, said yesterday: "He could tackle, score goals, spray passes all over the park. I'll never forget a Leeds match against Southampton when Leeds made between 30 and 40 passes without an opponent touching the ball."

"Billy was at the hub of it, flicking the ball with his heel, showing off his full range of skills. He was some player, one of the greats of the game."

Obituaries, page 23

Glass shatters City's hopes of extended run

Bournemouth 3
Bristol City 1

By DAVID POWELL

AFTER Chesterfield's run to the semi-finals last season, the Nationwide League second division has a reputation to live up to in the FA Cup. It did so in style yesterday when two of its members served up a stirring second-round tie, one in which Bristol City looked every inch a team that had won its nine previous matches. They just ran into a goal-keeper at the top of his game.

Jimmy Glass was the outstanding player on a wet and treacherous pitch, making six excellent saves. At the other

their debts are some £1.5 million — and how a Cup run would help. "Chesterfield just got to the semi-finals, but we are hoping we can get to the final," Mel Machin, the manager, said, careful to smile in case anybody should take him seriously.

Machin acknowledged that City had dominated the second half, but was impressed with the "great character, great commitment" shown by his players. He said that 3-1 was "very flattering", while John Ward, the City manager, raised a glass to Glass. "Terrific, wasn't he," Ward said.

However, what mattered more to Ward was that his team had allowed Glass to impress. "We worked him hard," Ward said. "We are disappointed with the result, but we will take the performance and put it on again next week."

Glass began his heroics by keeping out two shots by Goodridge, one a well-struck long-range drive, the other from closer in. Early in the second half, it was Cramb's turn to test him. A rare error by Howe let Cramb in for a shot that forced Glass into a close-range save.

After 62 minutes, Glass was smartly down at his near post to keep out a Goodridge low drive from an angle. Then another shot by Cramb was saved, City having stepped up a gear in the second half.

Glass was eventually beaten when Cramb slotted the ball past him, only to hit the far post. With such ill luck, City failed to set a club post-war record of ten successive wins. On the evidence of their play, though, it will not be long before they win again.

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): J. Glass — N. Young, I. Cox, E. Howe, J. Vincent — J. Bailey, S. Robinson, R. Barendse (sub: M. Robinson, 40min), J. O'Neil — S. Fletcher, C. Warren.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): K. Welch — A. Locke, L. Cawley, S. Taylor, J. Brannan (sub: S. Tannen, 40) — G. Goodridge, P. Tisdale (sub: D. Gray, 80), R. Edwards, M. Bell — C. Cramb, S. Gossler.

Referee: M. Halsey



Hayles, of Bristol Rovers, right, holds off a challenge from Irvine, of Wisbech, at Fenland Park on Saturday

Louts spoil big day for minnows

Wisbech Town 0
Bristol Rovers 2

By KEITH PIKE

THEY were not sold short by their players, who raised their game sufficiently to avoid a pasting from a thoroughly professional Bristol Rovers side, but Wisbech Town were badly let down by a minority of their supporters, whose overt racism soured an otherwise enjoyable FA Cup afternoon on Saturday.

The club that seems fated to make headlines for all the wrong reasons was left angry but helpless as a vocal, vitriolic and seemingly alcohol-fuelled mob behind one of the goals directed a stream of abuse at Barry Hayles, the black Rovers striker, during the warm-up and throughout the first half, culminating

with a banana being thrown on to the pitch as the teams left the field at half-time.

The police, having issued a warning over the public address system, subsequently moved into the crowd to arrest two youths during the second half, but it was Hayles who delivered the perfect riposte, scoring the second goal as Rovers made sure of their place in the third round.

It is probable that those who brought shame on the club will not be back at Fenland Park next Saturday, when Wisbech return to Dr Martens League midland division duty. They will not be missed.

"You don't get that sort of thing in the (Nationwide League) second division," Hayles said. "Now, had he suffered such abuse when scoring the goals that helped Stevenage Borough to the

Vauxhall Conference championship the season before last and secured his £200,000 move to the Memorial Ground. Like most people, he thought such intolerance had disappeared from football grounds. "I had been told by the manager (Ian Holloway) that the best way to answer was to put the ball in the net and it definitely made it sweeter to score," he said. "It is the best way to answer them." Indeed, it shut them up completely.

Hayles was nonetheless happy to give Wisbech credit for the way their players approached the match. "They passed it around well, not just lumping it and are a strong side," he said. In truth, though, their hopes of reaching the third round for the first time lasted the time that it took Jackie Gallagher's 71st-minute header, which was

bound for the top corner, to be tipped over by Collett. It was the one threat on the Rovers goal that they managed.

Nineteen minutes earlier, Beadle had powered past the gallant Moore to give Rovers the lead. The visitors, having already had one goal disallowed for offside, hit the post through Low and created any number of half-chances. A backheel from Hayles in a 77th-minute scramble gave the scoreline a more realistic appearance and only Bray's later defiance in the Wisbech goal prevented a rout. For that, at least, Wisbech could be grateful.

WISBECH TOWN (4-4-2): I. Bray — P. Marshall (sub: M. Newell, 70min), A. Moore, A. Irvine (sub: S. McLaughlin, 43), M. Lindsay — G. Chiles, W. Ward, L. Pank (sub: S. Topple, 80), I. Wilford — J. Gallagher, P. Murray.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A. Collett — J. Perry, T. White, A. Tison, D. Pritchard — J. Low, M. Hayfield, P. Beadle, M. Lockwood — B. Hayles, G. Penrice.

Referee: A. O'Leary

Hednesford are hoping defeat is lift to ambition

Hednesford Town 0
Darlington 1

By BILL EDGAR

JOHN BALDWIN, like Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, has transformed an ailing club since the start of the Nineties. Just as Ferguson believes his side's early Coca-Cola Cup exit this season will help the quest for his ultimate goal of a European Cup triumph, Baldwin, the Hednesford Town manager, may eventually reflect positively on an FA Cup defeat that has unchained the path to his own holy grail of the Nationwide League.

While Ferguson was facing calls for his resignation in January 1990, Baldwin was starting a managerial reign that has earned the club two promotions and, in 1996, third place in the Vauxhall Conference. Their failure to finish higher than eighth last season could be attributed in great part to an epic FA Cup run, in which the fourth round defeat at Middlesbrough was their ninth game of the competition. Baldwin, whose side he second in the Conference, said: "I am disappointed, but I've said all along that the league is our main aim." The manager of Hednesford found little support for his pre-match pleading that his part-timers were underdogs against Nationwide League third division opponents. The hosts were unbeaten at home this season, while Darlington had not won away for eight months or reached the FA Cup third round for eight years.

Baldwin has several players with considerable league experience under his control, including Blades and Denison, both recently of Wolverhampton Wanderers, but it was another former Molineux striker, Darren Roberts, who took centre stage for Darlington. Roberts converted a 49th-

minute penalty — awarded after Blades tripped Atkinson — but, within seconds, he was sent off for kicking the goal-keeper, Cooksey, as the ball rebounded from the net.

Roberts, whose side needed a penalty shoot-out to beat Solihull Borough in the last round, said: "I went to kick the ball back in the net in celebration, but the keeper put his foot in the way and I caught the back of his heel. I can't believe I've been sent off, I'm not going to kick him deliberately after scoring." Last season, a player was sent off in Serie A when his prolonged celebration of his goal was deemed to be time-wasting and a second bookable offence.

Terry Fleming saved Lincoln City, the Nationwide League third division leaders, from defeat at home to Emley, of the UniBond League premier division, with an equaliser in the dying moments of the game.

David Preece, the inspired Darlington goalkeeper, thwarted repeated Hednesford attacks after the dismissal, but the superior fitness of the visitors ensured that they were stronger in the final quarter.

The greatest period of success in their 117-year history of Hednesford has come in a rush since the last of the town's coalmines closed in the mid-Eighties. With the refurbishment of the Keys Park stadium to Nationwide League standards due for completion by March, they could be clocking in on third division shifts next season.

HEDNESFORD TOWN (4-4-2): S. Cooksey — P. Coffey, A. Gormin, P. Blades, K. Collins (sub: A. Hammers, 80min) — G. Fitzpatrick, C. Beeson, P. Watt, R. Denison — M. Murray (sub: D. Francis, 80), J. O'Connor.

DARLINGTON (4-3-3): D. Preece — S. Shaw, A. Coady, J. De Vos, F. French (sub: M. Burnard, 70) — S. Johnson, S. Goughen, M. Cawley — G. Naylor, D. Roberts, P. Robinson (sub: L. Brydon, 65).

Referee: P. Richards

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Defence: 2. 22.50			
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OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE	1. Lazio	2. Fiorentina	3. AC Milan	4. Inter Milan	5. Juventus	6. Roma	7. Fiorentina	8. Lazio	9. Fiorentina	10. Lazio
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SPANISH LEAGUE	1. Real Madrid	2. Barcelona	3. Atletico Madrid	4. Valencia	5. Real Sociedad	6. Athletic Bilbao	7. Real Betis	8. Real Zaragoza	9. Real Madrid	10. Real Madrid
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GERMAN LEAGUE	1. Borussia Dortmund	2. Bayern Munich	3. Borussia Dortmund	4. Borussia Dortmund	5. Borussia Dortmund	6. Borussia Dortmund	7. Borussia Dortmund	8. Borussia Dortmund	9. Borussia Dortmund	10. Borussia Dortmund
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ENGLISH LEAGUE	1. Arsenal	2. Manchester United	3. Liverpool	4. Tottenham Hotspur	5. Chelsea	6. Manchester City	7. Aston Villa	8. Everton	9. Blackburn Rovers	10. Derby County
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SCOTTISH LEAGUE	1. Celtic	2. Rangers	3. Aberdeen	4. Dundee United	5. Dundee	6. St. Johnstone	7. St. Mirren	8. Falkirk	9. Motherwell	10. Partick Thistle
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WELSH LEAGUE	1. Cardiff City	2. Swansea City	3. Newport City	4. Carmarthen Town	5. Gwent City	6. Merthyr Tydfil	7. Barry Town	8. Pontypool	9. Brecknock City	10. Aberystwyth Town
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IRISH LEAGUE	1. Shamrock Rovers	2. Drogheda United	3. Derry City	4. Sligo Rovers	5. Shelbourne	6. Bohemian	7. St. Patrick's Athletic	8. Wexford	9. Waterford	10. Cork City
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NETHERLANDS LEAGUE	1. Ajax	2. PSV Eindhoven	3. Feyenoord	4. Twente	5. Utrecht	6. Vitesse	7. NAC Breda	8. FC Groningen	9. FC Utrecht	10. FC Utrecht
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PORTUGAL LEAGUE	1. Sporting CP	2. Benfica	3. FC Porto	4. Sporting CP	5. Sporting CP	6. Sporting CP	7. Sporting CP	8. Sporting CP	9. Sporting CP	10. Sporting CP
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BRAZILIAN LEAGUE	1. Flamengo	2. Santos	3. Palmeiras	4. Corinthians	5. Cruzeiro	6. Botafogo	7. Vasco da Gama	8. Fluminense	9. Bahia	10. Atletico Paranaense
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ARGENTINE LEAGUE	1. Boca Juniors	2. River Plate	3. Independiente	4. Estudiantes	5. Racing Club	6. San Lorenzo	7. Rosario Central	8. Talleres	9. Banfield	10. Argentino de Rosario
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CHILEAN LEAGUE	1. Colo Colo	2. Universidad de Chile	3. Universidad Catolica	4. Universidad de Valparaiso	5. Universidad de Concepcion	6. Universidad de Magallanes	7. Universidad de La Serena	8. Universidad de Temuco	9. Universidad de Antofagasta	10. Universidad de Copiapo
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PERUVIAN LEAGUE	1. Sporting Cristal	2. Universitario	3. Alianza Lima	4. Sporting Cristal	5. Sporting Cristal	6. Sporting Cristal	7. Sporting Cristal	8. Sporting Cristal	9. Sporting Cristal	10. Sporting Cristal
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COLOMBIAN LEAGUE	1. Atletico Nacional	2. Deportivo Cali	3. Deportivo Pasto	4. Deportivo Cali	5. Deportivo Cali	6. Deportivo Cali	7. Deportivo Cali	8. Deportivo Cali	9. Deportivo Cali	10. Deportivo Cali
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VENEZUELAN LEAGUE	1. Deportivo Tachira	2. Deportivo Tachira	3. Deportivo Tachira	4. Deportivo Tachira	5. Deportivo Tachira	6. Deportivo Tachira	7. Deportivo Tachira	8. Deportivo Tachira	9. Deportivo Tachira	10. Deportivo Tachira
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ECUADORIAN LEAGUE	1. Barcelona	2. Barcelona	3. Barcelona	4. Barcelona	5. Barcelona	6. Barcelona	7. Barcelona	8. Barcelona	9. Barcelona	10. Barcelona
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PANAMANIAN LEAGUE	1. Atletico Nacional	2. Deportivo Cali	3. Deportivo Pasto	4. Deportivo Cali	5. Deportivo Cali	6. Deportivo Cali	7. Deportivo Cali	8. Deportivo Cali	9. Deportivo Cali	10. Deportivo Cali
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PARAGUAYAN LEAGUE	1. Olimpia	2. Olimpia	3. Olimpia
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Sky kicks Rider into touch at Twickenham

This was the game that will have broken hearts at BBC Sport. For years, they have been able to look at Sky's massive investment in sporting rights and think: "Hrm, what have we missed?" Some thrilling FA Cup Premier League games, the odd important World Cup qualifier, those historic British Isles victories in South Africa, some very expensive boxing, two Ryder Cup victories...

But this was different. England against New Zealand was one of those extraordinary occasions of shared national consciousness that the BBC has been accustomed to calling its own. Only this time, it wasn't. For the corporation, there was no hiding place — this was not a victory in some

far off foreign land, the team was not British or European, nor even Canadian by birth. This was England, Steve Rider's England, playing their socks off at Twickenham, a ground that the BBC used to call home.

Not any more. This was the day when the satellite channel finally got its reward for all the club games that it has patiently covered and for all the jibes that it has endured for the miserable television audiences such games normally attract.

Mark Durdin-Smith welcomed us to Twickenham an hour before kick-off, but there was none of the meretricious hyperbole that the channel sometimes goes in for. "A win today would be barely believable," he said. None of his



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

in half an hour's time and the BBC was not about to give it a free plug, especially as up to, but possibly not including, Saturday, England against the southern hemisphere has been something of a disaster for its competitor.

It's not just the disappointing audience — which has averaged between 2.4-3.0 million for the three preceding games — but the timing of the coverage. For both ITV and

BBC1, the serious business of building up a Saturday night audience to the 11 or 12 million that regularly watch *Casualty* or *Blind Date* starts at tea-time. No one wants to start from a base of 2.5 million. That is why ITV unexpectedly, but unrepentantly, gave up any pretence at "as live" coverage for England against South Africa nine days ago and went for edited highlights.

On Saturday, they did the

same again — the cruel moral being that not even the best rugby match seen for years can attract an audience to match repeats of *Are You Being Served*. Honestly billed as highlights and edited rather more smoothly than the week before, ITV's coverage worked pretty well, even if Will Carling looked somewhat more uncomfortable in the presenter's chair than he did at the outset four weekends ago. Mind you, presenting a television programme at the same time as you are unceremoniously shoved into history cannot be easy.

ITV's experience suggests that terrestrial broadcasters might, in future, be reluctant to pick up rights to delayed coverage of events already

shown live on satellite, but I don't think so. The BBC, for instance, had no qualms about making Liverpool against Manchester United the featured game of *Match of the Day*, despite it appearing first on Sky. BBC2, Channel 4 and Channel 5 would be pretty pleased with the sort of audience that ITV's rugby has been attracting.

Sky's audience for the Twickenham game, I suspect, may be fairly modest, even by its own standards. Rugby is not the box office pull that football or boxing are and England's performance was simply too unexpected to have persuaded many to stay at home at such a busy time of year. Its impact, however, particularly as a curtain-raiser

to the five nations' championship, where Sky has the exclusive rights to England games at Twickenham and France in Paris, could be significant.

Nevertheless, while they all slap each other on the back, the satellite channel bosses should reflect on the considerable room for improvement that exists. The presentation and build-up are now as good as anything the BBC offers, but you cannot imagine the BBC fluffing Zinzan Brooke's emotional run on to the pitch in the way that Sky's cameras managed to. Nor could you imagine them missing a conversion, a penalty kick for touch and at least two lineouts. England may have been at the top of their game, but Sky can still do better.

'Losing 23-9 at half-time, what was this? Not what I had come to expect of my beloved All Blacks'

Fans draw limited cheer from recovery

Over the Thames, a ferned flag snapped in the breeze, black against a bright cold sky. We watched from the bank, following the crowd, as its bearer crossed Twickenham Bridge and the silver river slipped below. I might as well get this over with now and admit it: my companion and I, our hearts with the All Blacks, were rebels both on English soil and thought this was the banner of a cause bound for victory and that this was no bad thing. My new-found allegiance — which seemed to arise from the moment I'd slipped on that sturdy, midnight jersey — had a sweet and seductive power.

But everything was different this week. I was not shunted out of a train at soulless Wembley, funnelled with bleak efficiency towards its twin towers. I was not surrounded by the massed ranks of the ebullient Welsh crowd, who seemed filled with fire and joy before the game, despite the scale of the challenge they faced, despite the stadium's chilliness, despite the grey day. Instead, I snuggled gently through the very model of prosperous England on the edge of urban life — the word suburb doesn't really do it for Richmond and Twickenham. The crowded Saturday morning shops, the splendour of Richmond Green, the snaking Thames, the high houses with their bow windows and, the closer I got to the stadium, the pubs crowded with clutches of the tall and Barbour'd, sucking on their pipes and talking in voices much lower than I'd expected.

For this was different too. There was a subdued feel in the autumn air. People kept their heads together, talked quietly as they approached the stadium. It was all very sedate, like someone had thrown a blanket over the proceedings. But inside the green-tinted stadium, I saw them, the sideline

ERICA
WAGNER



soldiers with painted faces, red and white. Just next to us, there was a whole mass of them, a battalion in enormous silly hats, waving flags and banners, shrieking and writhing for the television camera that inevitably turned upon them. Little boys, who would doubtless turn into new versions of the enormous men who'd brought them, darted past our legs, wrapped in ragged Union Jacks.

"How do they do it?" my companion asked me. "Get so excited, when..." but he didn't say what, when. Hubris is a dangerous thing. "How do they do it?" I asked him, gesturing towards the dark door from which the teams would emerge. "When they must know..." but I didn't say, know what. Hubris is a dangerous thing. He shrugged. "You can't think you're going to be beaten," he said. "Otherwise, you just couldn't play."

But when the non-playing All Blacks strolled across the bottom of the pitch in their dark suits and



The haka was unconvincing, a portent for a match in which New Zealand failed to complete their expected rout of England. Photograph: Clive Brunskill / Allsport

overcoats like a convention of titanic undertakers, they seemed the harbingers of a foregone conclusion. The stands were full now, rippling, rustling, as hushed as over 70,000 people can be. There was a last-chance air about it. You could feel something was up the moment that the teams pulled on to the pitch. The All Blacks — well, lumbering, moving as if all that mass had finally caught up with them, given them a taste of gravity. Then the English, sweeping out fast — running, not jogging — white and light. There was gravity at the haka too, its gestures not so broad, its leap not so high. And after the kick-off, something was certainly up. Last week's Wales v New Zealand game, the

first match I'd seen, had made me expect onslaught, overthrow, rout; but it was not to be.

Five minutes in, David Rees scored the try that made the stadium quake with an English roar — and the first of many choruses of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*. I had expected *Jerusalem*, but I was discovering that this was a day when expecting anything was clearly a grave error of judgment. In my black jacket — pure chance, you understand — I fidgeted, sat back and waited for my contrarian triumph.

Blow me down if it just didn't come, and all those kids with painted faces and banners got louder and louder and wilder and wilder and seemed, after all, to be

on to something. Last week, the New Zealanders had moved with precision and grace; this week, the black panthers just kept getting stopped in their tracks. Four minutes passed: another English try. Six more minutes: another. I could see what was going on and, despite my companion gravely informing me that the English tries were somehow the result of luck not-quite-justly rewarded, it didn't really seem to be the case.

Any sense of the subdued had vanished from the erupting, astonished crowd. It was extraordinary to watch, the English crowd and the English team becoming one, each lost without the other. It

carried me with it, though I stuck valiantly by struggling New Zealand. Losing 23-9 at half-time, my God, what was this? Not what I had, almost instantaneously, come to expect of my beloved All Blacks.

In the second half, life improved — but not enough for me. I tell you, not enough. After 62 minutes, I thought my heart would burst when Little's try and Mehrtens's conversion (see? I know their names now) took the All Blacks past the English at 26-23. I was panting. I moved and swayed — all right, usually in the opposite direction to most of the crowd — and hoped and thought it was, at last, a certainty — until Grayson's penalty took it to a draw. This was

not at all what I had come to expect last week when the All Blacks' thundering victory made the smell of blood sweet.

And then it was over. I stood still and rather alone in the sweeping, shouting crowd, now racing on to the green pitch to acclaim their heroes in the falling light of a winter afternoon. I buttoned up my black coat and headed out into dusky Twickenham.

Well, no, it was not a victory. It was a draw — so there — but fond as I'd become of my black jersey, I had to admit I'd seen England play a terrific game and perhaps the thrill of the unexpected is just as exciting as the thrill of victory.

Lyne Truss is away

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Question of qualification

From Mr T. Williamson

Sir, Am I the only follower of rugby union who objects to the process of qualification for the All Blacks?

During the Old Trafford international, the television coverage boasted Jonah Lomu to be the first All Black of Tongan descent, while Frank Bunce played for his original national team, Western Samoa, in the 1991 World Cup.

Qualification seems to be based upon time spent playing in New Zealand. Somehow, I think there would be uproar if England fielded a side containing Stranisky, Serevi, Iacovou and Tuigamala!

Even the Australians are to get in on the act, with Patricio Noriega due to make his debut in nine months' time. I feel that this is typical of the new breed of rugby mercenary. I pine for amateur years gone by!

Yours faithfully,
TOM WILLIAMSON,
9 North Avenue
Exeter, Devon.

From Mr Paul R. Martin
Sir, With reference to Robin England's suggestion (Sports Letters, December 1) that the

England XV face up to the Kiwis "seven feet of soil away", reminiscent of King Harold when he squared up to Harold Hardrada, all one can say is look what happened to King Harold at Hastings!

My own suggestion would be to invoke the spirit of a mere recent and well known hero — Admiral Nelson and his "Ships? I see no ships" attitude. Surely the sight of 15 Englishmen kited out in eye patches and telescopes to the covered eye would render the All Blacks incapable!

Yours faithfully,
PAUL R. MARTIN,
25 Borneo Street,
Putney, SW15.

From Dr S. A. Khan
Sir, Last Saturday night the haka was performed with much shouting and exuberant slapping of thighs in Baker Street underground station and, when the final jumps ended the display, the crowds on both up and down platforms clapped enthusiastically. I presume that the "whites" who were the performers were from New Zealand. I am pretty sure that had the haka men been Maoris, their reception would have been ecstatic.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. KHAN,
1 Hayfield Yard,
London E1 4LL.

Football and its fundamental priorities

From Mrs Christine Sullivan

Sir, At considerable expense we acquired tickets for the recent Manchester United v Wimbledon game. My son is nine years old and a great fan of Manchester United and he had a wonderful afternoon. However, he also returned with a publication entitled *Red Issue*, which I was shocked to find was filled with foul language and explicit references. It is totally unsuitable to be sold to children and yet carries no warning about the nature of its contents.

I am interested to know how it is licensed, to which board of control, if any, it is answerable and, what association it has with the club. The children of today are the players of tomorrow. Surely this is not the image football wants to send them?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE SULLIVAN,
239 Knightsbridge, London SW7.

Jamaica claim

From Dr Pamela Beshoff

Sir, Rob Hughes describes Jamaica's World Cup football team as "effectively Britain's B squad" (report, December 3), but I suggest that he has got it the wrong way round.

If such English luminaries as Paul Ince, Ian Wright and Andy Cole, to name but a few, were playing for Jamaica (which, in another scenario, they would be entitled to do) then England might

well then be "Jamaica's B team!" Yours sincerely, PAMELA BESHOFF, The Coach House, 112 Hampton Road, Twickenham TW2 5QS. georgianja@compuserve.com.

West Indies fall

From Mr L. Fraser-Mitchell
Sir, The appalling recent results by West Indies cricket teams prompt the question — how can they have fallen out of

form so much? I think the answer is much the same as the answer to England's slump — players seem to have lost pride in playing for their country and concern themselves solely with personal performance and how much they get paid. This was never the spirit in which cricket was meant to be played. Yours faithfully, LESLIE FRASER-MITCHELL, Fraser's Rest, Briar Close, Necton, Swaffham, Norfolk.

Pride in past pupils' success

From Mr Jim Page

Sir, Gerald Davies, superb wing three-quarter and magnificent writer, may well extol the feat of Llandovery (Sport in Schools, November 24) in producing 40 future Wales international players, likewise Barrie Lloyd (Sports Letters, December 1) can indeed take even greater pride in the famous Fettes having gone two dozen better, with an international blend of 64.

The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, founded in 1810, has produced 72 players who have become Ireland internationals.

Is "Inst" the only school to have the honour of two Lions captains — Sam Walker, in South Africa in 1938, and Robin Thompson, in South Africa in 1957? In all, ten former pupils have become British Isles players.

One notable artefact of world rugby is Instonian in origin. Sir Donald Currie (1825-1909), a Greenock-born Scot and pupil at "Inst" in the 1830s, founded the Union Castle Company, a vital link between Britain and South Africa, in 1900, donating the Currie Cup for inter-provin-

cial rugby. For almost a century, his trophy has been fiercely contested annually in the most spectacular rugby seen anywhere in the globe.

Yours faithfully,
JIM PAGE,
11 Glenbroom Park,
Newtown Abbey, Co Antrim.

From the Rector of The Glasgow Academy

Sir, The fine records of Llandovery and Fettes in producing rugby internationals are surpassed by that of The Glasgow Academy, which has, to date, produced 81 international players, all for Scotland. I suppose the school was off to a flying start, as six Glasgow Academicals played in the first international match in 1871 between England and Scotland. The Scottish Rugby Union was later formed in what was later the Masters' Common Room of our school and 15 former pupils have served as Presidents of the SRU. This may not put us "top of the league", but I hope we may be able to add to the totals in the future and so extend the splendid tradition of Glasgow Academy pupils representing their country.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID COMINS,
The Glasgow Academy,
Coblebrook Street,
Glasgow G12.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Oxford or Cambridge — who will win the University match at Twickenham? David Hands sets the scene for rugby's traditional end-of-term fixture.

■ **Wednesday**
Russell Kempson reports on Aston Villa's attempt to progress in the Uefa Cup.

■ **Thursday**
England's cricketers in pursuit of success — at the women's World Cup in India and in Sharjah.

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Danny Baker and Frank Leboeuf.

NETBALL: COACH SENSES VICTORY AS HER YOUNG SIDE RATTLE NEW ZEALAND

Beardwood delighted as England save pride

By ALLY RAMSAY

WHAT do you say when you have watched your team beaten by 12 goals to lose the first of three international matches in a series that you are expected to lose outright? According to Mary Beardwood, the England coach, the official line was: "They were rattled out there, they didn't like it."

And she did not mean England, her plucky band of youngsters; she meant New Zealand, the former world champions and victors by 47-35 at the Brighton Centre on Saturday. Beardwood was a happy coach.

It seems that everything in netball is relative. Last time the two sides met, England lost by 30 goals, so to whistle that margin down to 12 is quite an achievement. New Zealand are a big and powerful side. Most of their squad stand around the six-foot mark, while their goalkeeper, Tanya Cox, could best be described as a large presence in the circle. There is a lot of Tanya Cox.

Yet, despite their size, New Zealand are fleet of foot. They move the ball around with speed and venom, have more than a few deft moves in and around the circle and can defend accurately and in numbers.

While England began well enough, looking sharp in the first few minutes as they took a 4-1 lead, they soon found every route to goal blocked by a wall of black shirts. Before too long, New Zealand had eased into the lead and looked as if they were going to notch up another big score as Teresa Tairi and Belinda Colling found their range.

By the start of the third quarter, England were 22-12 behind and it was time for a change of personnel and tactics. Beardwood replaced her strike force of Lisa Stanley and Tracey Neville — sister of Phil and Gary Neville, of Manchester United, and a woman having a bad day at the office — with Lorraine Law and Lyn Carpenter. With Law standing off 3in, she had the

height if not the weight to counter the fearsome Cox in the circle.

Initially, the plan worked as England put away five goals and were getting into an effective rhythm. New Zealand called for a time-out to slow things down, but just as the game was restarting, English luck ran out. One of the umpires, Bill Alexander, fell awkwardly and twisted his ankle. It took several minutes for the medics to patch him up and wheel him away before the game could restart. By then, New Zealand had regrouped and the bounce had gone out of England.

Surrounded by the new generation of England players, it was left to the experienced heads of Fiona Murtagh and Lucia Sdao, two 30-year-olds with 173 caps between them, to find a way back. Murtagh, the captain, is not fond of losing and, against such strong opposition, she gave as good as she got. Whenever a New Zealand player was sent sprawling on the floor, Murtagh was never too far away.

She went for the long ball tactic in the final minutes, hurling everything towards Law, who racked up the goals to let England finish with their pride intact. England had limited New Zealand to 47 goals — poor by their standards — and drawn the fourth quarter 11-11.

Hostilities will be resumed in Birmingham on Wednesday and Newcastle on Saturday. Beardwood is convinced England can win before the week is out. "We still need more speed through the centre," she said, "and we need more practice against that sort of defence. There are still some 50-50 balls we need to come out with — but we can beat them." She would not risk money on the result and she would not be drawn on how she would plot the downfall of New Zealand, but there was a canny smile on Beardwood's face.



Lyn Carpenter, the England goal-attack, tries to find a way past Belinda Blair, of New Zealand, in the first of the countries' three internationals in Brighton

Edwards sails into deep water to prove a point

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TRACY Edwards says that she knows what people think of her in the chauvinistic world of British sailing. She may know some of it, but human nature being what it is, the most damning indictments are delivered by those out of earshot.

The gist of them is that she has no business trying to sail the former ENZA — now Royal & Sun Alliance — around the world to a non-stop record. This is men's business and an all-female crew will be out of their depth and may well die. They have no chance of breaking any record. Simply going round and then claiming the fastest all-female circumnavigation is merely a technical record but no great achievement.

The male critics say Edwards and her women are scared of the 92ft catamaran and, for psychological and physical reasons, will not be able to push her to her limits, as the all-male crew, skippered by Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, did on their record-breaking voyage in 1994. The women on the Royal & Sun Alliance are, allegedly, bickering over who their real leader is and are woefully short of multihull experience.

On that analysis, Edwards might as well forget it now and save herself, and us, a lot of trouble.

Yet the plucky former skipper of the Whitbread yacht, Maiden, whose crew is on standby for the off any day now, is used to the background chatter of boys who know better and of men who resent the fact that a woman has the nerve to go and get

several million pounds from an insurance company to tackle a challenge that most men would not dream of attempting.

Edwards's stock response to the jibes is along the lines of: "Well, we'll just have to go out and prove them wrong." Her mission is as much to go out and set records — men's and women's — as to break down the "bloody ignorance" of those who believe women cannot compete on equal terms with men. Some top female sailors agree with those who say that

being just as useful potential crew as men.

The round-the-world attempt by Edwards and her ten-strong multinational crew is the final part of an exceptionally ambitious campaign, whether for men or women. Edwards set herself three immutable goals when she launched the project last May: the trans-Atlantic record, the Round Britain and Ireland record and now the round-the-world attempt.

The concern has always been that bad luck with the weather, as much as anything else, could lead to repeated failure, as it has done with the first two record attempts, giving the critics plenty of scope for justifying their position. Margins are tight on all three records and, sailing in what is essentially an old generation boat, the chances of improving Olivier de Kersusson's round-the-world time of 71 days set this year after six attempts are remote indeed.

Realistically, Edwards's voyage must be judged in degrees of success. If she and her crew get round non-stop, they will be the fastest all-female circumnavigators. If they get round in under 80 days, they will be only the fourth crew to do that.

If they beat ENZA's time of 74 days, they will have sailed the same boat faster than an all-male crew, which even the most prejudiced of her male detractors will find hard to ignore. If they break de Kersusson's time of 71 days, they will be the fastest crew of all time. If they do that, the men versus women argument in professional sailing will be over.



Edwards: on a mission

women cannot hope to match their male counterparts when faced with the physical challenges of ocean racing, something the experience of the all-female crew on EF Education in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race seems to bear out.

However, Edwards does not accept this: women, she says, must simply train harder and get stronger and fitter, not only to take on the men, but to change attitudes so that male skippers of high-profile campaigns will regard women as

CURLING

Questions remain over Scotland

DOUGLAS DRYBURGH led Scotland to their second win at the European championships here in Germany yesterday. However, his squad, which will represent Great Britain at the winter Olympic Games in February, struggled to beat Denmark 5-5 in the second round.

An attacking early game helped the Scots take a 4-3 lead at the break, but danger loomed in the sixth end, when the Danes lodged a well

protected rock in the centre of the house and Dryburgh failed to convert. Sustained pressure from the Danes forced the match to an extra end before the Scots won.

Having surprised Scottish opposition with his Olympic and European selections, Dryburgh is under pressure to prove his credentials here. It told in the opening tie

against Holland on Saturday. The Dutch were not expected to pose a threat, but wayward play by Scotland allowed them to take singles at the first three ends. Despite a recovery, the Scots scraped home 7-5 after the ten ends.

By contrast, the Scotland women's rink, skipped by Kirsty Hay, played with authority to overcome the unfancied Italians 12-2 in the first round. In the second, they crushed France 13-1.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

On the hand below, East opened One Club and South intervened with One Diamond; then East-West had an uninterrupted auction to get to Six Hearts. I was asked if there was a reasonable sequence to get to Seven Hearts. The grand slam is a good bet. It is laydown if the trumps are 2-1 (78 per cent), and may still make if North has Q x x of trumps.

Dealer East	Game all	Rubber Bridge
♠ A 10 4 3 2 ♥ J 10 8 5 3 2 ♦ A 4 ♣ —	N W E S	♠ Q ♥ K Q 7 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ A Q 7 4 3

This is another good hand for splinters (discussed in Week-end last Saturday). I suggested the following sequence (South bidding One Diamond over One Club):

West	East
1H	1C
4S (2)	3S (1)
4S (4)	4H (2)
6D (5)	5C (4)
	7H (5)

1) Splitter bid, showing spade shortage and at least four-card heart support.

2) Cue-bid — hearts is the agreed suit.

3) East is right to sign off. Although he has good controls, his playing strength is poor.

4) Both cue-bids.

5) This is the critical bid. West can see that a grand slam is probable provided East's hearts are headed by the ace-king. In good company it is normal to play that a bid at the six level immediately below the agreed trump suit asks partner to bid seven if his trumps are better than they might be for the bidding so far. West knows that there is no danger of East bidding Seven with just the ace-queen

or king-queen of hearts: if that was all West needed, he would have bid Five No-Trumps (the so-called "grand slam force") over East's Five Club bid.

6) It is customary to comment "fired but happy".

The only point in the play is to cater for a bad trump break. If trumps are 2-1 West has six tricks in hearts, one in spades, four in the minors and two ruffs in the East hand.

But if North has queen to three trumps, one of the ruffs disappears — three of East's trumps are needed to pick up North's queen. Say North leads a diamond. West wins in hand, plays a trump to the king on which South shows out.

Now West should ruff a club back into hand; that way he has three entries to dummy to ruff clubs three times, and a fourth entry to cash the queen of clubs if it has become established.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- SPEY CAST**
- Fishing technique
 - Induced female infertility
 - Made by spun injection moulding
- QUICK FIRING**
- High temperature pottery kiln
 - Using brass-cased ammunition
 - An automatic rifle

- DOUBLE DECLUTCH**
- A Ju-Jitsu throw
 - A call at Canasta
 - Driving technique
- ULU**
- Up country
 - Writing desk fixative
 - Union of London Usherettes

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fide championship

The championship of Fide, the World Chess Federation, starts today in Groningen, Holland and will transfer to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland from January 1 to 9 1998. The leading contenders are Anatoly Karpov, Boris Gelfand, Viswanathan Anand, Veselin Topalov and Vassily Ivanchuk. Great Britain is represented by Michael Adams, Nigel Short, Matthew Sadler and Peter Wells. Adams is seeded No 8 while Sadler is No 13 and Short No 14.

Sadly for the credibility of this event as a true world championship, both Garry Kasparov (ranked No 1 in the world) and Vladimir Kramnik (No 2), have declined to participate. Anatoly Karpov, the reigning Fide champion, is seeded directly to the final and will pick up a minimum of \$768,000, simply by appearing for the final match. Regular reports on the Fide championship will appear in this column.

Veteran's victory

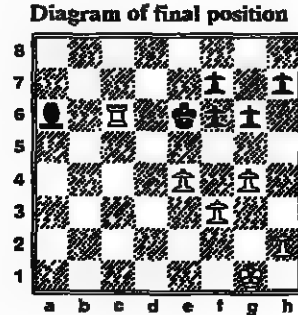
The veteran grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi, seeded No 45 in the Fide championship, has demonstrated his continuing strength by winning a short tournament in the Czech Republic. Here is one of his wins from that tournament.

White: Viktor Korchnoi
Black: Jan Smejkal
Ceska Trebova 1997

English Opening

- 1 Nf3 Nf6
- 2 c4 c5
- 3 Nc3 Nc6
- 4 d4 cxd4
- 5 Nxd4 b5
- 6 e4 d6
- 7 Be2 Nd7
- 8 Qxd4 Bg7
- 9 Bb5 Qc7
- 10 Qd2 Qxd5
- 11 f3 Bb7
- 12 Rc1 Rf6
- 13 Bb3 Bb5
- 14 Bb5 Bc6
- 15 Nd5 Qc7
- 16 Bb3 Bc6
- 17 c5 b5
- 18 Nd5 b5
- 19 Qxd6 Rb6
- 20 Qe7 Bxa2
- 21 0-0 b6
- 22 Qxa7 Rxa7
- 23 Bb5 Bc6
- 24 Bxa6 c4
- 25 Ra1 Bb3
- 26 Ra5 Kf8
- 27 Ra1 Ke7
- 28 Rb3 Ke6
- 29 Qd4 c3
- 30 Rcd3 Rxa6
- 31 Rcd3 Rxa6
- 32 Rcd3 Rxa6
- 33 Rcd3 Rxa6
- 34 Rcd3 Rxa6

Diagram of final position

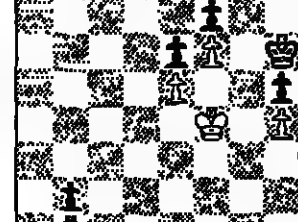


Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Speelman-Sax, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988. White is a piece ahead in this endgame, but there is a serious danger of the game being drawn by stalemate. How can White sidestep this possibility?



Solution: page 44

TENNIS: ALBERT HALL OFFICIALS GREETED WITH FAMILIAR VOLLEY OF ABUSE

McEnroe finds umpire is still serious

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN MCENROE had his customary explosive outburst and an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the umpire, Kim Craven, before winning the Honda Challenge Senior Singles at the Albert Hall yesterday. McEnroe beat Henri Leconte, of France, by winning the special tie-break 10-5 after he had taken the first set 6-2 and lost the second 6-3.

There had been few signs of trouble before McEnroe, trailing 5-3 in the second set and 30-15 on his own service, had a first service down the middle called out by a line judge. Syd Slawther, McEnroe advanced to the net, climbed over it and

put a ball down on the line. Then he demanded an overrule from the umpire and, when refused, said to the official: "You are full of ****." This earned him a code violation for "verbal abuse".

Then, having lost the set, McEnroe had a face-to-face confrontation with the umpire. Craven said later: "John told me I had got that look in my eye and perhaps he should see me outside."

McEnroe was still not happy. He had what he called "a philosophical talk" with Slawther about the line call, receiving a

slow hand-clap from spectators demanding that he should get on with the match. The tie-break proved an anticlimax. McEnroe advancing to 9-2 and holding seven match points, three of which Leconte saved, before losing 10-5.

McEnroe said later: "I can't win. The crowd yell at me to get mad and, when I do, they still yell at me. I don't think tennis has enough leeway. I watched those rugby players punching the lights out of each other yesterday and I feel like a pussy in comparison. We should have a punching-bag by the side of the court to let off a bit of steam."

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

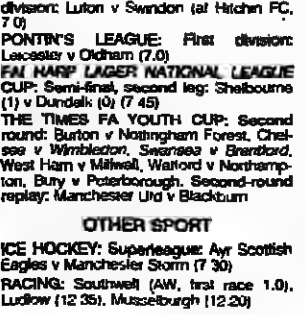
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket match

TODAY

FA Cup: Tottenham v Arsenal (8.0)
Football: Arsenal v Tottenham (8.0)
First round: Arsenal v Tottenham (8.0)
Bristol Rovers v Cambridge Utd (7.45)

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Football: Arsenal v Tottenham (8.0)
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Diagram of final position

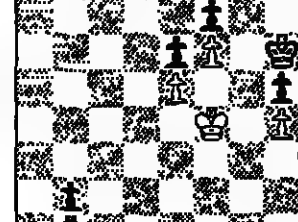


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WINNING MOVE

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OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Norwich v London Towers (7.30)
BOWLING: Scottish Masters (12.30), Purnipon (12.40), Sedgefield (12.50)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Galatasaray v Parma (7.45); Group B: FC Koeln v Feyenoord (7.45); Group C: Juventus v Manchester Utd (7.45); Group D: Newcastle v Dynamo Kiev (7.45); Group E: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munchen (7.45); Group F: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munchen (7.45); Group G: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munchen (7.45); Group H: Borussia Dortmund v Bayern Munchen (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Newcastle Eagles v Manchester Giants (7.30)
CLASSIC COUNTRY: Classic Country: Newcastle Eagles v Manchester Giants (7.30)

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Oxford Utd v Queens Park Rangers (7.45); Second division: Bristol Rovers v Gillingham (7.45); Third division: Cambridge Utd v Exeter (7.45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Newcastle Eagles v Manchester Giants (7.30)
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RACING

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FOR THE RECORD

BIATHLON

WORLD CUP Norway. World Cup 22 km sprint. 1. F. Luck (34m 25s), 2. D. Björnander (35m 25s), 3. R. P. (36m 25s), 4. S. Grønmo (37m 25s), 5. S. Grønmo (38m 25s), 6. S. Grønmo (39m 25s), 7. S. Grønmo (40m 25s), 8. S. Grønmo (41m 25s), 9. S. Grønmo (42m 25s), 10. S. Grønmo (43m 25s).

BOBSLEIGHING

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO Italy. World Cup 4-man bobsleigh. 1. S. Grønmo (34m 25s), 2. D. Björnander (35m 25s), 3. R. P. (36m 25s), 4. S. Grønmo (37m 25s), 5. S. Grønmo (38m 25s), 6. S. Grønmo (39m 25s), 7. S. Grønmo (40m 25s), 8. S. Grønmo (41m 25s), 9. S. Grønmo (42m 25s), 10. S. Grønmo (43m 25s).

BOWLS

WETTON TROPHY English Women's international. Bowls. 1. S. Grønmo (34m 25s), 2. D. Björnander (35m 25s), 3. R. P. (36m 25s), 4. S. Grønmo (37m 25s), 5. S. Grønmo (38m 25s), 6. S. Grønmo (39m 25s), 7. S. Grønmo (40m 25s), 8. S. Grønmo (41m 25s), 9. S. Grønmo (42m 25s), 10. S. Grønmo (43m 25s).

RUGBY UNION

International matches
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland

RUGBY LEAGUE

International match
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa

Gaelic Football

National League
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland

Ice Hockey

National League
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA

Lacrosse

National League
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada

Squash

World Cup
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland

Tennis

World Cup
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand

Rugby Union

International matches
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland
New Zealand 28-10 Scotland

Rugby League

International match
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa
France 17-10 South Africa

Gaelic Football

National League
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland
Ireland 17-10 Scotland

Ice Hockey

National League
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
Canada 17-10 USA
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Canada 17-10 USA

Lacrosse

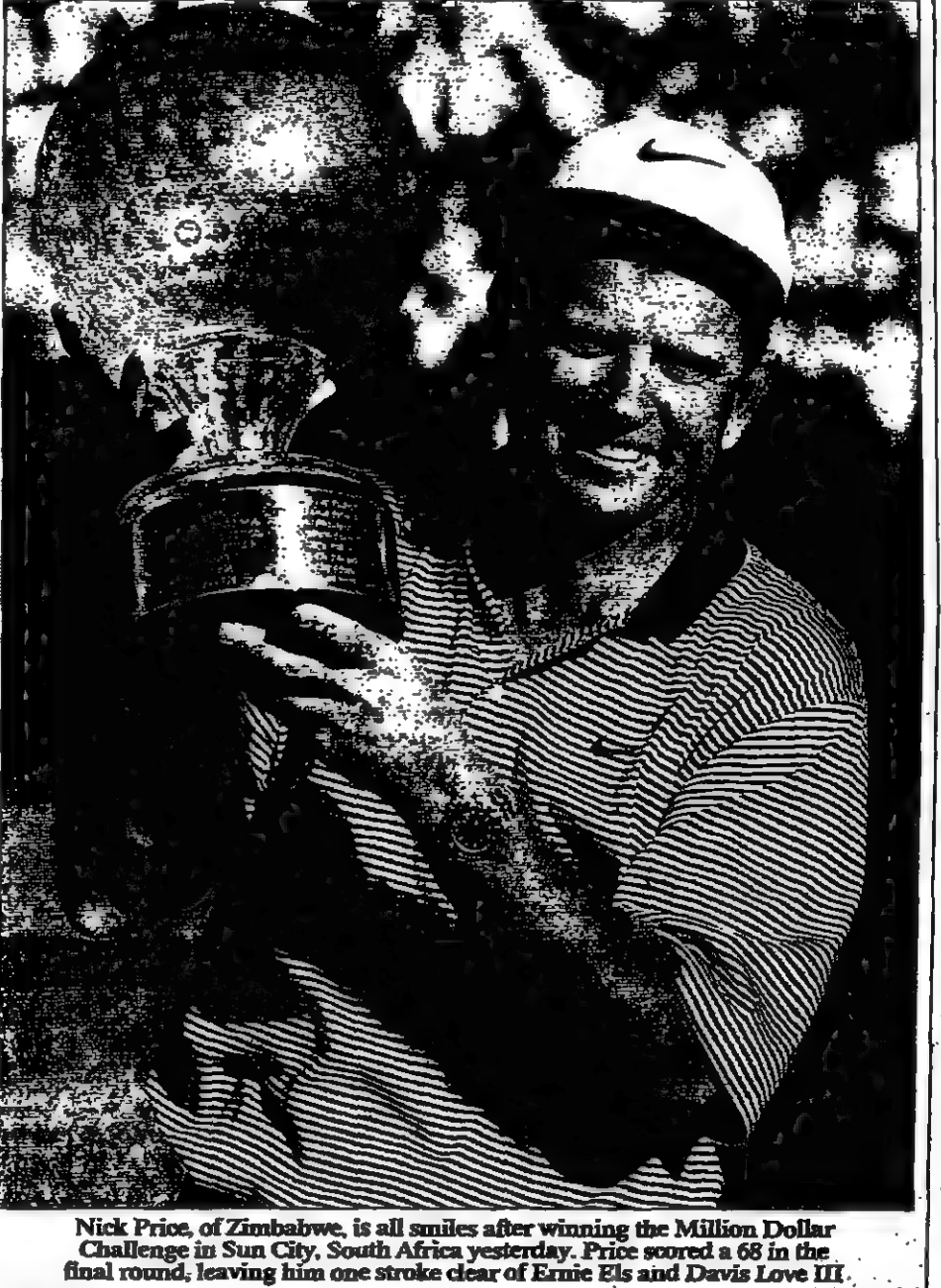
National League
USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada
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USA 17-10 Canada
USA 17-10 Canada

Squash

World Cup
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland

Tennis

World Cup
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
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Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand



Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, is all smiles after winning the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa yesterday. Price scored a 68 in the final round, leaving him one stroke clear of Ernie Els and Davis Love III.

Basketball

NBA
Los Angeles Lakers 101-95 Boston Celtics
Los Angeles Lakers 101-95 Boston Celtics
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Los Angeles Lakers 101-95 Boston Celtics
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Baseball

MLB
New York Yankees 5-4 Boston Red Sox
New York Yankees 5-4 Boston Red Sox
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New York Yankees 5-4 Boston Red Sox
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Hockey

NHL
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers
New York Rangers 4-3 Philadelphia Flyers

Lacrosse

NLL
Buffalo Sabres 12-6 New York Islanders
Buffalo Sabres 12-6 New York Islanders
Buffalo Sabres 12-6 New York Islanders
Buffalo Sabres 12-6 New York Islanders
Buffalo Sabres 12-6 New York Islanders
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Squash

World Cup
England 17-10 Scotland
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England 17-10 Scotland
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England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland
England 17-10 Scotland

Tennis

World Cup
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand
Australia 17-10 New Zealand

Cricket

Test matches
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
India 17-10 South Africa
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Brave enough to make a splash in middle age

Scene I: A postcard beach in Barbados. Blue sky, gentle Caribbean surf, golden sand and palm trees. A large woman in a bathing costume emerges from behind a palm tree heading for the sea. Following her is Graham Dour, the smartly dressed manager of the Treasure Beach Hotel.

She walks into the sea and swims. Graham watches, silent until she manages a long series of strokes which take her out to sea in a long curve. Graham: "Carol, stop, you are heading to the St Vincent Islands." Carol stops abruptly in a flurry of snorting and coughing and walks back up the beach.

Scene II: Three months before. A large woman in a bathing costume emerges from a changing room into a swimming pool in Central London. Blinking through her misted-up glasses she makes her way to the learners' section.

Enter the hero: Keith Gourd. Keith is my swimming instructor. I am the woman in the scenes above. He got me, in three months of half hours on Saturday mornings, to develop from being intolerably nervous of drowning, to tolerably confident of not drowning.

That lesson last March marked my first visit to a swimming pool for 30 years. I was not exactly terrified. It was more a mixture of extreme nervousness and embarrassment. I was typical of the adults Peter Cooper sees. He runs the Dolphin Swimming Club.

Our excuses for not having learnt vary. But our problem remains the same. We think too much, we are only too aware of the dangers of water, of drowning, of getting out of our depth and into trouble. Some serious aquaphobes hate water to the extent that

Carol Coles decided to learn to swim after an absence of 30 years from the swimming pool

they avoid getting their faces wet in the shower.

Peter, who qualified as a swimming instructor in 1966 and has taught for 30 years, has about 100 adults taking half-hour, one-to-one lessons with him and his team of instructors each weekend at the University of London pool in Maitland Street. At the same time, some 300 youngsters are also being taught singly or in pairs.

Peter's instructors range from Keith, who has been a full-time instructor for nine years, but describes himself as having always been in swimming, to Francis, a 19-year-old student with a club background and all the right qualifications. In Peter's experience it makes little difference whether adults are taught by older teachers or young students. It is motivation that counts.

According to Peter, some are so frightened it is hard to fathom why they want to learn. Some turn up drunk,

some are overcome by sudden attacks of dizziness, others become hysterical as they edge towards the deep end, and others have nightmares on Friday nights before the lessons.

Learning to swim certainly confronts their fears, but it hardly seems to be fun and leaves them no safer from drowning. Statistically, it is experienced swimmers who drown. Non-swimmers do not swim, so they have little opportunity to drown.

Nobody is clear about how many adult non-swimmers there are in the UK. The Amateur Swimming Association has no idea and is even more perplexed by how swimming might be defined. The Sports Council says that swimming is the tenth most popular sport in terms of club membership, with some 288,000 members of 1,950 clubs. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says that those most in danger of drowning are males aged 15-29.



Keith Gourd teaches Carol to swim at the University of London pool, above

In three months of half hours on Saturday mornings Carol, right, developed from being intolerably nervous of drowning, to tolerably confident of surviving

I was fortunate to be a 41-year-old female and just afraid, not completely terrified. Like most adult learners I had always had a vague intention of learning to swim, but had never got round to it. The first real barrier Keith has to conquer in his students, getting them to put their heads under water, was no problem.

I preferred to be as much submerged and invisible as possible in my uncustomised swimsuit.

Being short-sighted, I found the mixture of blurry, partial vision and underwater blindness unnerving. I do not think I would have persevered if I had been unable to get swimming goggles fitted with prescription lenses.

By my next lesson I had goggles. I immediately felt more at home in the water. So much so that I floated, which is the next stage in the learning curve. From then on it was a slow, but steady progress from pushing off and gliding to pushing, gliding and moving my arms and legs. There was a slight hiccup before we discovered that I crawl more naturally than breaststroke. Keith encouraged me patiently from the side, compli-

menting me on the slightest improvement. His reproachful: "Now what happened there Carol, you were doing so well, why did you stop?" haunted my Saturday mornings.

During the week I visited other swimming pools and, while friends plough up and down the fast lane notching up their lengths, I gambolled around in the shallow end, practising.

The usual cautions about

consulting your doctor apply if you have any health problems.

Age is no bar to performance. Peter is a member of the Swiss Cottage Masters Club for over-25s who still want to compete.

I still have a way to go, but Keith has already taught me that, far from being frightening, water is fun. He has also given me a healthy respect for it. So far I have only played in the shallow end in pools. But now I need to practise in the deep end I shall have to tell the life guards I am a learner and ask them to keep an eye on me.

Which was how poor Graham got lumbered with being swimming supervisor on my holiday. Peter and Keith were adamant that a pool is vastly different from the sea and tyros like me should not be let loose on the latter without supervision. They were right. The sea is much more fun. If it can manage to have a reef full of darting fish all the better. Graham would not let me swim anywhere near the reef. But with my goggles on I could stand with my head under water watching it. I must ask Keith about snorkelling when the new term begins.

WHERE TO LEARN

PETER Cooper and the Dolphin Swimming Club can be contacted on 0181-349 1844. The half-hour lessons are one-to-one for adults and bookable by the term at £195 for 11 lessons. The Amateur Swimming Association suggests that your nearest local authority pool is the best place to find instructors prepared to teach, either on a one-to-one basis or in groups, and emphasises that you need to take a realistic view of the time needed for an adult. The Institute of Swimming Teachers and Coaches, Dawson House, 65 Forest Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 3NW is compiling a list of instructors prepared to teach one-to-one.



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bought were the Speedo Menace design at £19.99 from a sports shop. However, optical goggles, as prescription lens goggles are known, are now only available from registered opticians. They are made by the Cambridge Optical Group for Speedo and for details of stockists and prices, contact COG's customer service number on 01954 785100. From January the plain black Menace goggle will be joined by the Futura, as Speedo's most popular goggle goes optical and optical goggle wearers get the chance to go multi-coloured.

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مكتبة الأمل

Court of Appeal

Law Report December 8 1997

House of Lords

Inability to consent makes detention illegal

L v Bournewood Community and Mental Health NHS Trust

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Phillips and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Reasons December 2]

A hospital could informally admit a person for treatment for a mental disorder under section 131 of the Mental Health Act 1983 only with his consent. A person who had no capacity to consent or dissent, nor a guardian to consent on his behalf, had to be admitted under the statutory provisions in the 1983 Act, otherwise the hospital was detaining him. Since the common law principle of necessity was excluded by the statutory provisions, that detention was unlawful.

The Court of Appeal so held, giving reasons for having allowed on October 29 the appeal of L, brought by his next friend, against the refusal by Mr Justice Owen on October 10, 1997 of his application for judicial review of the decision of the Bournewood Community and Mental Health NHS trust to admit him to hospital informally and keep him there. The Court of Appeal granted a declaration that the appellant had been unlawfully detained.

The appellant was autistic, unable to speak and had complex needs requiring 24-hour care. He had no ability to communicate consent or dissent to treatment. For 30 years he was a resident in Bournewood Hospital now run by

the respondent trust. In March 1994 he went to live with carers in their own home. They were very fond of him and treated him as one of the family.

While at a day centre he attended weekly, he became agitated. Since his carers, who were able to deal with such episodes, could not be contacted, a doctor was called. He was taken to Bournewood Hospital and admitted to the mental health behavioural unit where he remained. Since he made no attempt to leave, the trust believed that he could be informally admitted.

The carers were not allowed to see him while his needs were being assessed, as he might expect to leave with them. The trust intended to discharge him to the carers but not until he was considered fit for discharge by the hospital's clinical team.

The appellant applied for judicial review, seeking to quash the trust's decision to detain him, a declaration that his retention was unlawful and mandamus requiring his release forthwith. A writ of habeas corpus, and damages for assault and false imprisonment were also claimed.

Mr Justice Owen had refused judicial review on the ground that the appellant was free to leave. There would be no restraint until the appellant attempted to leave and then he would be prevented from leaving. The appellant appealed.

After the Court of Appeal hearing the trust formally detained the

appellant under section 5 of the 1983 Act.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Paul Bowen for the appellant; Mr John Grace, QC, for the NHS trust.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case raised difficult issues which could have a far reaching effect on the present approach to the reception, care and treatment of many mentally disordered patients.

Three issues were raised: (i) Was the appellant detained? (ii) If so (iii) Was that detention justified by the common law doctrine of necessity? (iv) If not (iii) What was the appropriate relief?

A person was detained in law if those who had control over the premises in which he was had the intention that he should not be permitted to leave those premises and had the ability to prevent him from leaving.

That was the appellant's position. If the appellant had attempted to leave the hospital, those in charge of him would not have permitted him to do so. He was detained in law.

The 1983 Act was not an exhaustive code but was extensive in its application to those requiring treatment for mental disorders, defined in section 2.

The Act contained numerous provisions to protect the position of those who were admitted and treated in hospital under section 2(4), including the right to apply to

the independent Mental Health Review Tribunal which had powers to order the discharge of patients. Section 17 dealt with after-care of the patient.

The right of a hospital to detain a patient for treatment for mental disorder was to be found in, and only in the 1983 Act, whose provisions applied to the exclusion of the common law principle of necessity.

Section 131, which preserved the right to admit a patient informally, addressed the position of a patient who was admitted and treated with consent. The trust had admitted the appellant and was detaining him for treatment for mental disorder without his consent and without the formalities required by the 1983 Act. It followed that they had acted and were acting unlawfully.

The whole approach of the trust was based on the false premise that they were entitled to treat the appellant as an inpatient without his consent as long as he did not dissent.

That was wrong. They were only allowed to admit him to hospital if they complied with the statutory requirements.

The common law powers of necessity could be exercised by an individual to protect someone who was ill or injured or in danger. It was not a power to admit a patient to hospital or to detain him there.

A troubling feature was that the

trust was not alone in misinterpreting the effect of the Act. Apparently there could be many patients, especially those suffering from dementia, in the same position as the appellant, partly as a consequence of opinions in authoritative text books: see *Mental Health Law* by Brenda Hoggett (4th edition (1996) p9) and *Mental Health Act Manual* by Richard M. Jones (5th edition (1996) p340).

The court differed from those opinions. The current practice could not justify a disregard of the Act. That was especially true because of the undesirable consequences which could follow a practice which bypassed the safeguards provided by the Act for patients who were statutorily detained.

In a future emergency, where a person was in the appellant's position, the trust would have to decide whether or not it should exercise its statutory powers.

If it decided not to do so it could not admit the patient for treatment for mental illness. It would not have to turn such a patient away. The trust was entitled to look after the patient to prevent him from harming himself until other arrangements which were reasonably satisfactory could be made.

A declaration was made, nominal damages of £1 awarded, and leave to appeal to the House of Lords granted.

Solicitors: Scott-Moncrieff Harbottle & Sinclair; Boscroft Stables.

Race bias is not inferred from unreasonable act

Glasgow City Council v Zafar

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 27]

In considering under section 10(1)(a) of the Race Relations Act 1976 whether an employer had treated an employee "on racial grounds" ... less favourably than he treats or would treat other persons? it was irrelevant that the employer had acted unreasonably.

The comparison to be made was with reference to how that employer, not the hypothetical reasonable employer, treated or would treat other employees. An industrial tribunal was not bound to draw an inference of racial prejudice from the absence of any satisfactory explanation by the employer of differential treatment accorded to the claimant.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Abdul Rashid Zafar from the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Ross, Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord McCluskey and Lord Morrison) (1997 SLT 281) who had allowed an appeal by the employer, Glasgow City Council, as successors to Strathclyde Regional Council, from the Employment Appeal Tribunal and set aside a finding by an industrial tribunal of racial discrimination.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had dismissed the council's appeal from the industrial tribunal.

Mr Kenneth Mure, QC and Mr Sepala Munsinghe, both of the Scots Bar, for Mr Zafar; Mr James Peoples, QC and Mrs Sarah Wolfe for the council.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that Mr Zafar had been employed by the council as a social worker until his dismissal in March 1989. He had brought proceedings against it in the

industrial tribunal, which had dismissed all his allegations except that his dismissal had been unfair in the manner in which it had been conducted and that it had been racially discriminatory. The council had not appealed to the Second Division against the finding of unfair dismissal.

The industrial tribunal had made its finding of racial discrimination wholly on the basis of two inferences: first, that because the council had afforded to Mr Zafar treatment falling far below that of a reasonable employer, there was a presumption that it had treated him differently and less favourably than others; second, that, in the absence of a non-racial explanation for such differential conduct, it had no choice in law but to draw the inference that the reason for such less favourable treatment had been racial. The Second Division had held the tribunal to have been in error on both points. His Lordship agreed.

The 1976 Act required it to be shown that the claimant had been treated by the person against whom the discrimination was alleged less favourably than that person treated or would treat another.

In deciding that issue, the conduct of a hypothetical reasonable employer was irrelevant. The alleged discriminator might or might not be a reasonable employer.

If he was not, he might well have treated another employee in the same unsatisfactory way as that in which he had treated the claimant, in which case he would not have treated the claimant "less favourably".

The tribunal, having wrongly drawn the inference of less favourable treatment, had then held that, in the absence of any satisfactory non-racial explanation for such treatment, it was bound by authority to draw the inference

that such less favourable treatment had been on the ground of Mr Zafar's race.

Mr Mure had not attempted to justify that reasoning, but, since the authorities were in a state of some confusion, due in part to some words of his Lordship, it was desirable to clarify how the law stood.

The best guidance had been given by Lord Justice Neill in *King v Great Britain-China Centre* [1991] IRLR 513, 5180 who had said, inter alia:

"If an explanation is ... put forward or if the tribunal considers [it] to be inadequate or unsatisfactory it will be legitimate ... to infer that the discrimination was on racial grounds. This is not a matter of law but, as Lord Justice May put it in *Noone v North West Thames Regional Health Authority* [1988] IRLR 195, 198, 'almost common sense'."

"As the conclusion of the evidence the tribunal should make findings as to the primary facts and draw such inferences as they consider proper from those facts. They should then reach a conclusion on the balance of probabilities."

That was the guidance that should in future be applied. In particular, certain remarks of his Lordship [as Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson] in the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Akhanza v Ministry of Defence* [1981] IRLR 331 and *Chattopadhyay v Headmaster of Holloway School* [1982] ICR 132 to the effect that the inference of discrimination on racial grounds "should" be drawn had put the matter too highly, were inconsistent with later Court of Appeal authority and should not be followed.

Lord Slynn, Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Campbell Smith, WS, Edinburgh; Lewis Silkin for Simpson & Marwick, WS, Edinburgh.

Abuse to prosecute after assurances

Posternobile plc v Brent London Borough Council

Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment November 11]

Where local authority officers represented that planning consent was not required for temporary advertisement hoardings, subsequent prosecutions for failing to obtain planning consent were an abuse of process.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Posternobile plc and quashing their convictions by Brent Magistrates Court on February 3, 1997 for displaying advertisements contrary to regulations 5 and 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (SI 1992 No 666) and section 224(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

Mr Andrew Fraser-Urquhart for Posternobile; Mr Robin Green for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that 25 separate informations were laid against the appellant by Brent London Borough Council for displaying advertisements without obtaining the necessary planning consent.

The appellants did not deny the charges but alleged that at a meeting held on September 27, 1995 between a planning consultant employed by the appellants and a director of the council and officers of the council the appellants were told that planning consent would not be required for the advertisements in question which were to be erected for one month or less.

The appellants left the meeting with the impression that consent was not required for the advertisements. Immediately after the advertisements were erected, the council commenced prosecutions

against them without any preliminary correspondence for not obtaining the necessary planning consent. The appellants submitted that the prosecutions were an abuse of process.

His Lordship referred to the two main strands of abuse of process identified by Lord Justice Neill in *R v Beckford* (The Times January 27, 1995) [1994] 1 Cr App R 94, 101 as cases where the court concluded the defendant could not receive a fair trial or where it would be unfair for the defendant to be tried. The present case fell into the latter category.

The council submitted that the officers in question were inexperienced and the appellants were wrong to rely on their advice. The officers had only given an expression of opinion and not a promise not to prosecute.

His Lordship considered the appellants were correct in relying on the advice of the officers. It was not as though they had requested planning advice from one of the council's gardeners. The expression of opinion clearly informed the appellants they could proceed without planning consent.

Western Fish Producers v Penwith District Council [1981] 2 All ER 204, 209, 220 was distinguished as the present case was not concerned with a planning consent which was permanent but with the erection of advertisement hoardings around White City for one month or less.

It was important that the citizen should be able to rely on the statements of public officials. Once one accepted the advice had been given and there were no long term effects then it was an abuse of process to allow the prosecution to proceed and the correct procedure would have been for the council to withdraw the prosecutions.

Mr Justice Moses agreed. Solicitors: J. W. Godfrey & Co, Berkhams; Ms Rosemary Hunt, Brent.

Commission not payable on sale through advertisement

Harwood (trading as RSBS Group) v Smith and Another

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment November 14]

An estate agent with sole selling rights over vendors' property was not entitled to commission where, during the agency agreement but without any involvement by the estate agent, the vendors answered a newspaper advertisement from prospective purchasers which resulted in exchange of contracts for the sale of the property after the agency agreement had expired.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff estate agent, Mr Michael Harwood, trading as RSBS Group, against the order of Judge Hamilton at Hinchin County Court on May 21, 1996, as amended on June 9, that he was not entitled to commission from the defendant vendors, Peter James Smith and Anne Kirkland Smith, on the sale of their property at Terence Gallacher and Gillian Gallacher.

Mr Brian Riley for the estate agent; Miss Antonia Morris for the vendors.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the estate agent was engaged to act in the capacity of agent with sole selling rights of the vendors' residential nursing home for six months at a fee of 3.5 per cent of the agreed price. The terms of the contract provided that the estate agent was to be paid the fee on completion of the sale of the property. The estate agent was to be paid the fee on completion of the sale of the property. The estate agent was to be paid the fee on completion of the sale of the property.

"You will be liable to pay remuneration to ... in each of the following circumstances: (a) If unconditional contracts for the sale of the property are exchanged in the period during which we have sole selling rights."

even if the purchaser was not found by us but by another agent or by any other person including yourself.

"(b) If unconditional contracts for the sale of the property are exchanged after the expiry of the period during which we have sole selling rights but as a purchaser who was introduced to you during that period or with whom we had negotiations about the property during that period."

The vendors instructed the estate agent in July 1994. In mid-October they saw an advertisement in a newspaper saying that a residential nursing home was wanted.

Mr Smith responded to the advertisement, giving his telephone number. Negotiations between the Gallachers and the vendors ensued. The estate agent was at no stage involved.

The vendors gave notice of their intention to discontinue the estate agent's involvement as from January 1995. The estate agent confirmed that the contract would end on that date. On January 16 the vendors exchanged contracts for the sale of the property to the Gallachers with completion later the same day.

The definition of "sole selling rights" contained in two paragraphs. The first (a) dealt with the exchange of contracts during the period of sole selling rights and gave an unqualified right to the full commission regardless of how that exchange came about.

The second paragraph (b) covered the exchange of contracts after the expiry of the period in which case the commission was payable if the purchaser was a person "who was introduced to you during the period or with whom we had negotiations about the property during that period."

Paragraph (b) appeared to cover two alternatives: either the individual had been introduced to the client by the agent or the individual had been introduced to the client by someone else but the

agent had negotiated with him on behalf of the client.

That was the meaning of the paragraph which was arrived at on a consideration of how the language used would be reasonably understood by a client. That was the critical consideration.

Bearing in mind that the purpose of the definition was to bring home to the client the circumstances under which he would become liable to pay commission, the definition did not make it clear that he was still to pay commission in respect of an exchange of contracts outside the period when the introduction was not effected by the agent.

Accordingly, his Lordship did not accept the submission of the estate agent that the relevant words in paragraph (b) meant introduced by anyone.

They meant what, in context they would reasonably be understood to mean by a client reading the document, that was to say, introduced by the agent.

Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Howe Roche & Waller, Stevenage; Chivers Walsh Smith, Bradford.

Scots Law Report December 8 1997 Outer House

English law no help in Scotland

James Howden and Co Ltd v Taylor Woodrow Property Co Ltd

Before Lord Penrose

[Judgment August 13]

Waiver in Scots law did not include the temporary suspension of a right.

In any event, where a party to a contract was advised by his lawyers that the other party had no right to rescind, he could not establish that the other party had waived such a right, because he could not show that he acted in reliance on such a waiver, since he believed at the time that the other party had no right to be waived.

Lord Penrose, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree of absolvitor in favour of Taylor Woodrow Property Co Ltd in an action of reparation brought against them by James Howden and Co Ltd.

Mr Richard Keen, QC and Mr Nigel Ross for the pursuers; Mr Christopher Haddow, QC and Mr Alan Hamilton for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the pursuers had agreed to grant lease of commercial subjects to the defenders. The agreement was conditional upon the pursuers obtaining by June 30, 1990 discharges of any conditions affecting the title to the subjects which might reasonably be considered materially to affect their development. If that had not been done then both parties would be entitled to rescind.

In the event the parties disagreed as to whether certain conditions fell within that description. The pursuers had maintained that they did not, but without prejudice to that both parties had applied to the Lands Tribunal for Scotland for their discharge. By June 27 it was apparent that the tribunal would not decide the question before the contractual deadline.

On July 2 the defenders gave notice that they were rescinding. The pursuers contended that they had waived their right to rescind at any time before September 30, 1990.

A meeting had been held on June 27 at which the defenders had asked that the date by which either party might rescind be postponed to September 30. The defenders did not say that they intended to rescind or were considering rescinding. As a result the notice of July 2 was wholly unexpected by the pursuers.

After July 2 the pursuers had believed that they could hold the defenders to the bargain, and had acted consistently with that belief. Around July 10 they had received legal advice that there were in fact no title conditions that required to be discharged, and that for that reason the defenders had not been entitled to rescind.

For the purposes of their accounts the pursuers had at the time treated the contract as subsisting. The explanation for that was their legal view of the title conditions. Waiver had not played a part in that decision.

Prejudicial reliance was not a necessary condition of waiver, unlike personal bar: *Armia Ltd v Doxey Developments Ltd* [1979] SC (HL) 59.

Centrally waiver consisted in the abandoning of a right in such a way that the other party was entitled to rely on that abandonment: see *Gloag, Contract* (2nd edition, p281). Lord Fraser in *Armia*, citing *Banning v Wright* [1972] 1 WLR 972 and *W. J. Alan & Co Ltd v El Nasr Export and Import Co* [1972] 2 QB 189.

It had never been the pursuers' position that the defenders had abandoned wholly their right to rescind. The case was one of temporary postponement of that right, a waiver of the right for three months only. The defenders contended that waiver connoted permanent abandonment of a right and not its temporary suspension.

The pursuers argued that there was abundant authority to support the view that waiver comprehended the temporary suspension of a right: see *Bower, Estoppel by Representation* (3rd edition, pp395-9); *Motor Oil Hellas* (Cor-

inth) *Refineries SA v Shipping Corporation of India* (The *Kanchenjunga*) [1990] 1 Lloyd's Rep 391, 399 per Lord Goff.

In his Lordship's opinion it would not be appropriate to adopt observations from eminent authorities in the law of England and seek to apply them in Scotland even where there was a similarity of language in the expression of apparently parallel rules.

It was particularly necessary to take regard to the distinction between the requirements of the law of remedies and the law of obligations.

Waiver operated in relation to the contractual obligation. It changed the scope of the creditor's rights and the debtor's obligations.

The English authorities to which his Lordship had been referred suggested that equitable estoppel, and in particular promissory estoppel which was relevant in the present context, was as much a function of the equitable jurisdiction of the court as it was of the law of obligations.

In *Bower* (at p359), there was an extensive quotation from *Enamuel Ayodeji Ajayi v R. T. Briscoe (Nigeria) Ltd* [1964] 1 WLR 1326, which at least raised a question whether the suspensory character which promissory estoppel might have was fundamentally procedural in character.

However, whether or not it was correct so to understand the law of England, the case pointed to significant differences from the Scottish law. The Privy Council had referred to a party being estopped from enforcing his right unless he first gave reasonable notice and from being irrevocably estopped only if the other party had altered his position irreversibly.

Those factors might point to the element of prejudice in personal bar in the law of Scotland. They were not a feature of the Scots law of waiver.

It was necessary to return to the speech of Lord Keith in *Armia* and to later authorities in which the

factor of abandonment had been emphasised.

In *Louisa and Co Ltd v J. E. Lesser (Properties) Ltd* [1990] SC 178 the term "abandonment" had not been considered a loose expression that might encompass the giving of time or postponement of the exercise of the right: compare *Atlas Assurance Co Ltd v Dollar Land Holdings plc* [1993] SLT 892, 894 per Lord Murray and Gordon v *East Kilbride Development Corporation* [1995] SLT 63, 64 per Lord Caplan.

A creditor's willingness to suspend enforcement would normally be a response to a request by the debtor or conditional on the debtor's promise of performance within the revised period.

One might be driven irresistibly towards consent as the source of the new position. Waiver was unilateral action which attracted a response in consent and was not dependent on consent.

As Lord Keith had observed in *Armia*, in English law waiver and variation of contract might be difficult to distinguish on occasion, given that the thrust of developing jurisprudence was to avoid the impact of the doctrine of consideration.

But the insistence on abandonment in Scots law at least had the advantage of emphasising the initial requirement for unilateral action in qualification of or departing from an existing right. The case of waiver failed.

If that were wrong, then a question would arise as to whether what had happened had amounted to a unilateral suspension of the defenders' right to rescind. If that had been the question, the pursuers would have failed to prove reliance on the defenders' conduct as waiver. In part because the pursuers had believed on the basis of their legal advice that the defenders did not have a right to rescind, and therefore could not have had at the material time a right which they could either abandon or suspend.

Law agents: Macay Murray & Spence; Gray Mitchell, WS.

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CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Baillie Gifford Japan, Carclo Engineering Group, CRT Group, Faupel Trading Group, Highams Systems Services, Jarvis, Jasmin, Marston Thompson & Evershed, Total Systems, Finalec, Alders, API Group, Celltech, Electronic Data Processing, United Drug, Economic statistics: UK October industrial/manufacturing output, UK November PPI.

TOMORROW

Interim: Anglo Group, Berkeley Group, BSS Group, BTP, Drummond Group, Ensor Holdings, Foodstock, Fuller Smith & Turner, Halma, Photobition Group, Real Time Control, Martin Shelton, VHE Holdings, Finalec, Apollo Metals, Bradstock Group, Compess Group, Holmes & Marchant Group, Meritmore Abbey, Hozelock Group, Leeds Group, Vaux Group. Economic statistics: UK BRC November retail sales report, UK November retail price index.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: British Land, HP Bulmer Holdings, Drummond Group, Limit, Powderjet Pharmaceuticals, Scottish Hydro Electric, David S Smith, Tor Investment Trust, Finalec, Air-tours, Metrolina, Morland, Sage Group, Tilton Holdings, Economic statistics: Bank of England November MPC meeting minutes, Bank of England to auction £2 billion 6.5 per cent 2003 gilt stock.

THURSDAY

Interim: Atlantic Telecom, Harvey Nicholls, LucasVarity, Rascal Electronics, Shield Diagnostics, Finalec, Countryside Properties, Galen Holdings, Hunters Armley Group. Economic statistics: UK CBI December industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interim: Barch, Braxway, John Swan & Sons, Finalec, Grainger Trust. Economic statistics: No UK data scheduled for release.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy GEC, BBA, Synner, Hardy Oil & Gas, Culver Holdings, Wiggins, World Telecom, Sell: Parkland, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Countryside Properties, Cliveden, The Observer: Buy Beristford, Britax, Mail on Sunday: Buy Burnden Leisure, Sell: Jacobs Holdings, Mulberry Group, Express on Sunday: Buy Christian Salvesen, Glynwed International.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL GIBSON

Heavy going at Harvey Nichols

HARVEY NICHOLS: Home to London's army of Sloanes and made famous by Edina and Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous*, the Knightsbridge department store group has been spreading its tentacles rapidly north in an effort to fuel profits growth.

A new store opened in Leeds earlier this year made an immediate impact, but it remains to be seen if sales can be maintained at their early blistering pace.

Half-year profits, due out on Thursday, are expected to grow from £5.5 million to £6 million with the dividend up from 1.9p to 2p. Full-year figures in June failed to live up to expectations, with start-up costs of £1 million relating to the Oxo Tower restaurant raking the edge off things.

Dickson Poon, chairman, is now on the lookout for other restaurant sites, but admits this may take some time.

COMPASS GROUP: The independent catering services group has completed a steady stream of acquisitions in recent years, creating a pattern of solid earnings growth.

It is unlikely that much will have changed when full-year figures are unveiled tomorrow. The group has set itself a target of 20 per cent earnings growth per annum and these latest figures are unlikely to disappoint.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at about £157.2 million compared with £114.3 million last time, producing earnings a share of 31.1p against 26.5p, a rise of 17 per cent that should prove acceptable.

It will become harder for Compass to maintain this when it must rely on organic growth. The payout is expected to rise from 8.6p to 9.8p.

SCOTTISH HYDRO: Half-year figures on Wednesday will again reflect the effects of low rainfall, needed in hydro generation. Pre-tax profits are set to grow from £61.3 million to £68 million, helped by a growing contribution from its interests south of the



Less than fabulous half-year growth is expected from Dickson Poon at Harvey Nichols

border in England and Wales, where power generation continues to grow.

An increased tax burden is likely to limit the scope for growth in earnings to around 8 per cent at 13.4p. After stripping out the £43 million windfall tax bill, the earnings figure falls to just 2.2p. Results in the second half should be boosted by the new station at Keadby in addition to Seabank and Rocksavage. The

interim dividend should grow from 5.28p to 5.85p net.

RACAL ELECTRONICS: The group has been the subject of bid speculation in recent months, although its share price remains well below its best of the year.

Half-year results, out Thursday, are unlikely to be good enough to enable the price to make up lost ground. Brokers are looking for a downturn in pre-tax

profits of about £14 million, to £5 million, with earnings a share suffering a similar fate, down from 3.8p to 0.9p.

The only bright spot is defence, accounting for almost a third of group sales. The interest charge is expected to grow to £13 million. The dividend will stay at 2.10p.

AIRTOURS: Brokers will be pinning their hopes on some upbeat comments about summer

holiday bookings when the group unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to show another impressive rise from £86.8 million to between £115 million and £120 million, although earnings growth is likely to be more modest, up 22 per cent at 56p.

UK tour operating profits will be about 40 per cent ahead at £58.5 million, supported by solid demand from Scandinavia. North America will have experienced another difficult period.

Shareholders should be rewarded with a rise in the payout of 25 per cent from 16p to 20p.

LUCASVARITY: Currency translations are likely to have held back the newly merged group's performance in the third quarter, as results on Thursday will show. Pre-tax profits of £85.6 million are expected, which should compare favourably with the pro forma numbers from last year. Earnings a share are calculated at 4.1p. Most of the cost-saving benefits arising from the merger will already have affected margins. There will be no payout this time.

ALLDERS: Another solid performance is expected later today from a management that remains hungry for further success.

The acquisition of the Owen Owen department store chain will have provided a nice boost to pre-tax profits, which Nick Bubbs, retail analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, pitches at £21 million compared with £11 million. Earnings are set to leap a massive 200 per cent to 18.1p. The dividend will be up 9 per cent at 7.7p.

NFC: The benefits of restructuring should be reflected in full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits should have grown from £85.2 million to between £90 million and £100 million. Earnings should be up by about 11 per cent to 8.1p.

The payout should be pegged at 7.1p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on retail price data

A busy week for British economic statistics kicks off today with publication of industrial production figures for October and producer prices data for November.

Industrial production is expected to have grown by 0.3 per cent, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, compared with a fall of 0.2 per cent the previous month. Manufacturing output is forecast to have risen by 0.2 per cent, the same increase as in September.

Producer input prices are expected to have fallen by 0.7 per cent in the latest month, leaving input prices down 6.4 per cent over the past year. Output prices are anticipated to have risen by 0.1 per cent in November, leaving them 1.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Tomorrow, the markets will be focused on retail prices figures for November. The headline rate of inflation is expected to be unchanged from October's level at 3.7 per cent and the underlying rate unchanged at 2.8 per cent. Also published is the British Retail Consortium's latest monthly sales monitor, which is expected to confirm that November retail sales have been very disappointing. Another point of interest tomorrow will be the appearance of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before the Treasury Select Committee to testify on the Pre-Budget Report.

On Wednesday, attention will turn to the publication of minutes of the November meeting of the monetary policy committee when rates were raised by 1/4 point. Amid speculation that this was a split decision, these minutes are particularly eagerly awaited. On Thursday, the Confederation of British Industry's latest industrial trends survey is published and, on Friday, a two-day summit of European Union leaders begins in Luxembourg.

Among overseas developments that will be of particular interest in the financial markets will be the announcement, expected on Wednesday, of a package of measures to stabilise the Japanese financial system.

On Friday, the Governor of the Bank of Japan is due to make a speech at the Japan Press Centre.

JANET BUSH

Capital funding at record levels

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE world's main capital market raised a record \$1,350 billion of international finance in the first nine months of the year, almost 15 per cent more than the same period last year, according to a new study from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Of this, more than \$1,000 billion was in securities or fully committed loan facilities, including \$672 billion of bonds and a much more modest \$54 billion of equity, almost as much as for the whole of 1996. Capital raised

over the full year should easily beat last year's \$1,572 billion, the OECD expects, unless Asian financial crises and market volatility virtually stall capital raising activity.

The UK came third over the nine months, raising \$129 billion of international finance, against \$354 billion in the United States and \$167 billion in Germany.

In a special study in *Financial Market Trends*, the OECD shows that institutional funds have come to dominate virtually all stock markets in the industrial

countries and have now become a prerequisite for liquid markets in emerging economies too. Apart from the UK and US, however, institutional funds appear to show little interest in equity shares, the OECD notes.

Total institutional funds in the main OECD areas, which chiefly cover Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia, grew from \$3,200 billion, or 38 per cent of combined gross domestic product in 1981, to \$16,300 billion (90 per cent of GDP) in 1991 and to \$24,300 billion (107

per cent of GDP) in 1995. Growth accelerated in 1990-95, with investment companies such as unit trusts and mutual funds growing fastest, at an annual rate of 29 per cent in Canada, 22 per cent in Germany, 19 per cent in the US and 14 per cent in the UK and Italy. Insurance funds expanded at an average annual 10 per cent in France.

By contrast, pension funds grew relatively slowly in the seven leading countries. Only in Asia and the Pacific did annual pension fund growth exceed 10 per cent.

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Austria Sch	21.70	20.04
Belgium Fr	63.93	58.97
Canada \$	2.478	2.288
Cyprus Cyp£	0.005	0.004
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.91
Finland Mk	6.45	6.70
France Fr	10.3	9.54
Germany Dm	3.10	2.98
Greece Dr	489	449
Hong Kong \$	18.61	12.41
Iceland	132	112
Ireland Pt	1.18	1.09
Israel Shk	6.23	5.53
Italy Lit	3080	2823
Japan Yen	229.33	211.80
Malta	0.680	0.621
Netherlands G	3.510	3.215
New Zealand \$	2.90	2.69
Norway Kr	12.55	11.61
Portugal Esc	313.03	291.00
S Africa Rd	8.78	7.80
Spain Ptas	259.78	241.00
Sweden Kr	13.74	12.54
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.31
Turkey Lira	32279	31281
USA \$	1.758	1.615

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6563 (-0.0282)
German mark
2.9532 (-0.0179)
Exchange index
104.3 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3279.8 (+144.2)
FTSE 100
5142.9 (+311.1)
New York Dow Jones
8149.13 (+326.00)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
16424.48 (-211.78)

Answers from page 38

SPEY CAST

(a) A special method of withdrawing fishing line and fly made necessary on the River Spey because of the profusion of foliage close to the river. Instead of allowing the line to stream back behind him, the fisherman must by suitable movements cause this to happen sideways.

QUICK FIRING

(b) A piece is said to be quick firing when the means of obturation (preventing gases escaping through breech) is a brass case for propellant. Many large pieces have propellant in bags with "mushroom pad" obturation.

DOUBLE DECLUTCH

(c) Before synchromesh gears were invented, it was necessary, when changing down, to depress the clutch pedal, lift out of gear, release clutch pedal, "blip" engine revs, depress pedal and engage lower gear. I am amazed that anyone ever managed to change down.

ULU

(d) Used in Malaysia to denote either distant but organised locations or territory off the beaten track, where there is wild undergrowth and the occasional nomadic habitation.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Ke4! Kp6 2 Kd3! Kd6 3 Kd3! Kp6 4 Kd2! Kd6 5 Kd2! Kp6 6 Kd2! Kd6 7 Kd2! Kp6 8 Kd2! Kd6 9 Kd2! Kp6 10 Kd2! Kd6 11 Kd2! Kp6 12 Kd2! Kd6 13 Kd2! Kp6 14 Kd2! Kd6 15 Kd2! Kp6 16 Kd2! Kd6 17 Kd2! Kp6 18 Kd2! Kd6 19 Kd2! Kp6 20 Kd2! Kd6 21 Kd2! Kp6 22 Kd2! Kd6 23 Kd2! Kp6 24 Kd2! Kd6 25 Kd2! Kp6 26 Kd2! Kd6 27 Kd2! Kp6 28 Kd2! Kd6 29 Kd2! Kp6 30 Kd2! Kd6 31 Kd2! Kp6 32 Kd2! Kd6 33 Kd2! Kp6 34 Kd2! Kd6 35 Kd2! Kp6 36 Kd2! Kd6 37 Kd2! Kp6 38 Kd2! Kd6 39 Kd2! Kp6 40 Kd2! Kd6 41 Kd2! Kp6 42 Kd2! Kd6 43 Kd2! Kp6 44 Kd2! Kd6 45 Kd2! Kp6 46 Kd2! Kd6 47 Kd2! Kp6 48 Kd2! Kd6 49 Kd2! Kp6 50 Kd2! Kd6 51 Kd2! Kp6 52 Kd2! Kd6 53 Kd2! Kp6 54 Kd2! Kd6 55 Kd2! Kp6 56 Kd2! Kd6 57 Kd2! Kp6 58 Kd2! Kd6 59 Kd2! Kp6 60 Kd2! Kd6 61 Kd2! Kp6 62 Kd2! Kd6 63 Kd2! Kp6 64 Kd2! Kd6 65 Kd2! Kp6 66 Kd2! Kd6 67 Kd2! Kp6 68 Kd2! Kd6 69 Kd2! Kp6 70 Kd2! Kd6 71 Kd2! Kp6 72 Kd2! Kd6 73 Kd2! Kp6 74 Kd2! Kd6 75 Kd2! Kp6 76 Kd2! Kd6 77 Kd2! Kp6 78 Kd2! Kd6 79 Kd2! Kp6 80 Kd2! Kd6 81 Kd2! Kp6 82 Kd2! Kd6 83 Kd2! Kp6 84 Kd2! Kd6 85 Kd2! Kp6 86 Kd2! Kd6 87 Kd2! Kp6 88 Kd2! Kd6 89 Kd2! Kp6 90 Kd2! Kd6 91 Kd2! Kp6 92 Kd2! Kd6 93 Kd2! Kp6 94 Kd2! Kd6 95 Kd2! Kp6 96 Kd2! Kd6 97 Kd2! Kp6 98 Kd2! Kd6 99 Kd2! Kp6 100 Kd2! Kd6

Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So far opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

مكتبة النور

Lost sense of value in the currencies of time

There may be only 17 days left until Christmas but even more strikingly, there are only 389 days left until the advent of the euro. Of all the things that have been claimed to result from the coming of the new currency, there is one which has not been much heralded but which, for me, stands out — confusion. The new currency will destroy people's monetary history, and hence their sense of value.

Put yourself in the position of a European citizen offered a job that pays 30,000 euros a year. Good or bad? You must now get out your calculator and work out how this translates into marks, or whatever. But since your salary was last set in marks, there has been inflation. Moreover, there will presumably be inflation in euros in the future. So how many euros should you now seek in your new job to get the equivalent reward?

Of course, there is a conversion formula which you could use, and doubtless for large transactions

this is exactly what will be done. But individuals do not typically carry a calculator with them to assess every economic transaction. Rather, they rely on memory and the sense this gives them of relative values. You enter the supermarket and find that strawberries are on special offer — 2 euros a kilo. Is that cheap or dear? You simply will not know.

This confusion about relative values will reach its height in all long-term financial contracts, where a sense of value over time is vital. You are confronted by a salesman who tells you that if you save 500 euros a month, by the time you are 65 you will be able to draw a pension of 40,000 euros a year. Would that make you rich or poor? Most people surely will not have a clue. Naturally, they could ask the salesman to tell them, but I

would not advise it. Or consider mortgages. The bank offers a euro fixed-rate mortgage at 5 per cent? Good or bad? It would be an extremely good deal in comparison to how things used to be with sterling mortgages. But in euros? This confusion will not be entirely new. Something similar happened with decimalisation in the UK. At least in that instance, values quoted in pounds were undisturbed. It was only prices below the pound unit which were cut adrift from their history. It still seems incredible that something as trivial as the 50p coin equates to the old ten-shilling note.

Yet the main reason for the dislocation of values in Britain has been not decimalisation, but inflation. Earlier this year, the RPI celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and this threw up some



interesting price comparisons. In 1947, for three shillings (15p) you could have bought a 78 rpm gramophone record of Glenn Miller, or paid to watch Charlton win the FA Cup. An old "thrupenny bit" would have bought you a copy of *The Times*. Whereas prices overall have risen

by some twentyfold, a bar of chocolate has risen by a factor of 11 and a woman's frock by only 4½ times. (Mind you, in 1947, as well as paying 15s 11d, you also had to tender seven coupons.) Meanwhile, the price of a six-bedroom house in Wimbledon has risen from £7,250 to £775,000.

These changes in the value of money over long periods of time play havoc with concepts of value — especially in relation to earnings. You frequently hear complaints about how expensive things are now, and, of course, in terms of money values, they are. But what do these mean?

In 1914 you could buy two front stalls seats at the Royal Opera for a mere £2 2s 6d (£2.10). The two of you could also have dinner and stay the night at the Savoy and after the whole evening still have

change from a fiver. Sounds good, doesn't it? But it would have taken an ordinary worker a month to earn that fiver.

For another example, take the earnings of our public servants. Excessive aren't they? In 1830 the Duke of Wellington, as Prime Minister, was able to rub along on a mere £17,000 per annum. But in today's money that equates to £3.4 million. Upgraded in line with the growth of average earnings, that would translate into a few millions a year today.

After the advent of the euro, people's sense of values will be disturbed by huge differences in the currency change. Of course, the problems created by the currency change will be only temporary. In time, the euro will develop its own monetary history and people will accumulate a stock of

memories about relative values. Moreover, if the currency fulfils the claims being made for it, the gains will easily outweigh the costs imposed by the initial loss of monetary history. Yet I wish that it was properly appreciated that there is this item on the debit side of the ledger.

The advocates of the single currency tell us that it will instantly increase the efficiency of the price mechanism because price comparisons will become much easier across countries. That is true — up to a point. But the extent to which it will equalise prices is, in my view, grossly overdone.

Differences in taxes, competitive conditions, labour and transport costs will ensure that price differences across countries will remain, and hence difficult comparisons will still have to be made. Meanwhile, price comparisons over time will become not easier but much more difficult. What is your view? A euro for your thoughts.

Spectacular season for Optoplast duo

By FRASER NELSON

TWO directors of Optoplast, Britain's largest spectacle case maker, are set to become millionaires three days before Christmas when their company joins the Alternative Investment Market valued at £11 million.

Daniel Thorn and Gary Conway, joint chief executives of the company, will each pocket £1.25 million in cash on December 22, when the shares start trading, and will each

retain a £3.3 million stake each after flotation. Staff get £200 of free shares each.

The company was set up after the Second World War by Mr Conway's father, using funds provided by Mr Thorn's grandfather. It capitalised on the deregulation of the optical industry in the 1980s, and now runs a catalogue of 125 different models, which sell across the UK, France, Germany and Spain. It is now raising £2

million to fund its expansion into jewellery boxes — a market which Mr Thorn believes is worth £30 million in the UK.

Profits and sales have almost doubled over the last two years, allowing the company to return a pre-tax profit of £1.36 million on sales of £4.83 million in the year to June 30.

Elsewhere, on AIM, Patrick McDonagh, the founder of CBT, a computer programmer

training group, made his second fortune on Friday, when Rapid Technology joined both AIM and Dublin's Developing Companies' Market (DCM). Mr McDonagh, who raised £60 million by selling his stake in CBT, retains a £5.18 million holding in Rapid Technology. Itself valued at £22 million after raising £5 million (£4.4 million), CBT becomes the first company to join both AIM and the DCM.



Open and shut case: Daniel Thorn, left, and Gary Conway, will become millionaires

Tesco set to sell French subsidiary for £225m

By CHRIS AYRES

TESCO, the UK's leading supermarket group, is expected to this week announce the £225 million sale of Cateau, its French subsidiary, to Promodès, a French retailer.

The sale of Cateau, which owns seven hypermarkets, 74 supermarkets and 23 smaller outlets mostly in the North, will mark the end of a four-year struggle by Tesco against local competition.

It comes as the consolidation of the French food sector is gathering pace, with Promodès launching a hostile £3.3 billion takeover for Casino Guichard-Perrachon, the market leader.

Tesco will be seen as accepting defeat against the difficult French market, which suffers from strict planning laws against supermarkets, depressed consumer spending and fierce competition.

Tesco paid an estimated £150 million for Cateau in 1993. It recently poached André Mercier from Docks de France, its French rival, making him chief executive.

However, the group, which was discreetly put up for sale in September, suffered a disappointing performance last year, making profits of just £1 million. Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, is handling the sale.

In spite of its aggressive strategy, Tesco failed to gain a larger share of the French market. Last year, it also aborted a bid to buy Docks de France.

When the disposal of Cateau is complete Tesco is expected to concentrate on its overseas operations in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Tesco would not comment yesterday.

Equal access rules to benefit telecoms

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

SPECIALIST telecommunications groups such as Energis and Colt should benefit from a decision by the Government to accept European Commission proposals for "equal access" in the telecoms markets of member states from 2000.

In the past, British policy has been to promote competition by licensing new networks. The decision to support equal access means that customers will be able to choose freely which operator carries their long distance and international calls without dialling a prefix code — a system known as "easy access". At the moment most calls go by default over the existing BT network.

In the UK, four dominant operators — BT, Kingston, in the Hull area, and Vodafone and Cellnet — will be required to give equal access to competitors, including international rivals such as WorldCom and AT&T. The four dominant providers will have to offer interconnection to long distance and international carriers who, in turn, can market their services to the subscribers of the dominant four. Subscribers will be able to nominate their chosen carriers.

James Dodd, telecommunications analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, believes that the change will accelerate the decline in BT's market share from 2000 onwards. It also has the ability to reverse BT earnings from growth of around 5 per cent a year to a small percentage fall.

Last week's decision at a meeting of the European Telecoms Council in Brussels comes as a boost for Energis, the National Grid telecommunications company specialising in the business market. The decision means that Energis, which floats on the London stock exchange and Nasdaq this week, will from 2000 be able to market its services nationally without having to link its own infrastructure to every city or market in the UK.

Swiss banks merger likely to hit jobs in City

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

MANY hundreds of jobs are likely to be lost in the City of London if merger negotiations between Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland succeed in bringing together Switzerland's two biggest international banks.

Some estimates put job losses worldwide at 10,000 because of the strong overlap between the two banks, which together have about 50,000 staff.

In London, the overlap is clearest in securities trading, where each is a leading player. Two years ago SBC bought SG Warburg, which included all the Warburg businesses other than fund management and employs about 3,500 in the City. UBS bought the former Phillips & Drew, with its PDE fund management and venture capital group, in preparation for the 1986 big bang. It employs about 3,000 in London.

Speculation on the Continent has increased over the weekend that the talks are virtually complete and a merger could even be announced today. The combined bank is expected to be called Union Bank Corporation of Switzerland. It would initially be valued at about £36 billion.

While UBS has traditionally been the senior of the three top Swiss banks, SBC has recently been more successful at cutting domestic retail banking costs and building a world-scale network in trading and fee-based businesses.

The Swiss and at least two of the three top German banking groups aim to be in the single-figure elite of global investment banks.

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139	100	13.30	13.30	110	-2	8.1	155	50	4.88	Juvenile Inc	55	-2	20.5
139	100	13.30	13.30	110	-2	8.1	155	50	4.88	Juvenile Inc	55	-2	20.5
139	100	13.30	13.30	110	-2	8.1	155	50	4.88	Juvenile Inc	55	-2	20.5
139	100	13.30	13.30	110	-2	8.1	155	50	4.88	Juvenile Inc	55	-2	20.5
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The high-tech jobcentre in Brixton Hill, South London, where jobseekers locate opportunities nationwide, using touch-sensitive computer screens

High-tech approach driving delivery of new deal on jobs

The Employment Service outlines a new jobcentre initiative today, says Philip Bassett

Hello? No — yes, WHAT? You'll have to WAIT! This is the rough end of jobfinding: a harassed official in a London job centre, on the phone and simultaneously trying to deal with the unemployed young woman in front of her. On a chilly grey winter afternoon, the chairs are crowded. One person waiting is asleep. Seven are sitting on the floor. Two squat on the radiator.

Just off London's busiest shopping area, this is the jobcentre in Denmark Street, inconspicuously sited where rock music instrument shops jostle each other for business. In a grimy, yellow-walled jobcentre devoted to catering work, serving the fast-food and restaurant industries of the West End, a dozen or so people stare at the jobs on the boards. "It's not a question that I'm not willing to work," an early-20s woman is explaining to the official behind the desk. "I'm looking for work. But I have got a right to say I don't want to work in the kind of job I've been doing."

Displayed behind her are some of those jobs — the McJobs of the new flexible labour market. "Brand new contemporary bar opening in Covent Garden — start work from January 5, 1998," says one glowingly, though the reality is a little different from the glamorous rhetoric: "Kitchen assistant... £3.25 an hour."

Opposite shops selling a vintage 1957 Fender Stratocaster guitar for £1,950, and a Gibson Everly acoustic for just £195, there's this: "Crew member, fast-food restaurant, locally Circus. £3.60 an hour, 6pm-5am night and early shifts. Or this: "Cook, Shepherd's Bush. Making and cooking pizzas. £3 an hour." Or a part-time waiter in Bond Street, able to speak English and Japanese, all for "£80 per week net".

Today, Gordon Brown will emphasise the Government's commitment to getting people off welfare and into work. In a speech to a TUC conference on Labour's £2.5 billion New Deal jobs scheme, he will welcome employer support for the programme, such as "flexi-jobs" announcement today. But behind the politics of the programme — using windfall tax money from the privatised utilities to cut youth and long-term unemployment — lies the practicality of delivering it. That will fall to the Government's Employment Service, which runs the country's 1,050 jobcentres.

David Blunkett, Employment and Education Secretary, says there is a "new commitment and enthusiasm for a new way of working" in the Employment Service (ES) since the Government announced its New Deal programme, which goes live on January 5 in 12 "pathfinder" areas across Britain.

That new way of working will be set out today when the ES publishes its prospectus for the future — the latest move in a realignment of the service set in motion by Labour's election victory.

The primary role of the ES, which absorbs £1.2 billion in government funding, is to help the unemployed to find work, according to Leigh Lewis, its chief executive. But he adds: "We also have another role, which is concerned with the protection of public funds, ensuring that only those people eligible to receive Jobseeker's Allowance actually do so."

What that means in practice in the past is the ES being seen by many unemployed as equivalent to the police: someone who is going to stop you doing things, who is going to bear down hard on you, and clamp down on your benefit. Someone to stay well clear of, as far as is possible.

Senior ES officials acknowledge that many claimants hold this view, privately recognising that much of the policy drive of the Conservative Government was in this direction — though they insist that this approach has been one of the most significant factors in improving labour market flexibility and contributing to the fall in unemployment.

With its support for flexibility, Labour wants to build on that. But it is clear, too, that it wants the ES in particular to switch its focus by becoming much more geared to helping people back into work. "We have to make people want to come into jobcentres, rather than just need to," one senior ES official says.

Some organisations with long experience of dealing with the ES are sceptical that it is capable of making such a radical shift. They doubt its experience in contracting

social security benefits in Britain since 1947, when the Jobseekers' Allowance replaced unemployment benefit.

At the same time, it has spent more than £70 million on a new computer system that finally offers the chance for the unemployed to see vacancies online, from around the country if necessary — a Whitehall holy grail that has eluded governments for more than 20 years.

It has done so quietly and successfully — a far cry from the management chaos and howls of client complaint that afflicted the Child Support Agency, a not dissimilar government body.

The new Labour Market System is on show and in use at Brixton Hill

Jobcentre. Though only a few foot-flying miles from Denmark Street — oddly, a highly effective centre, with good placement figures into local catering — the two could hardly be more different. For a jobcentre, Brixton Hill is warm and welcoming, with splashes of attractive colour and deft spotlighting. New Deal displays are prominent.

Two young women walk to the door, and with the ease of practice, head straight for the LMS standalone Siemens Nixdorf terminals. These, with

their touch-sensitive screens, respond immediately to their job choices, guiding them quickly through sector and area selections. A further touch prints out specific job vacancies — vacancies which, unlike many on jobcentre notice boards, are for five jobs, not yet taken by others. They take their choices to an official in the bright open-plan office, and begin to make contact with the firms they have selected.

Francesca Walford, business manager at the jobcentre, which currently has about 2,500 unemployed registered, takes pride in both its efficiency, and its attractiveness — and sees the two as linked: "If the image is 'what a mess', well how are people supposed to have confidence in the advice we're giving?"

She and the centre's 36 staff are bubbling with enthusiasm for the New Deal programme that begins there in a few weeks — advisory staff already hired and being trained. The "Gateway" induction programme up and running, environmental help schemes, such as refurbishing old computers, identified.

Senior ES officials believe that jobcentres like Brixton Hill are the way forward for the service, and the best prospect of delivering the New Deal and subsequent welfare-to-work programmes that are central to the Government's economic and social agenda.

Mr Blunkett is fulsome in his praise. "The speed and enthusiasm with which New Deal is being introduced is a credit to the Employment Service," he says, though ministers and ES officials know that success will be heavily dependent on how far the service manages to make it work.

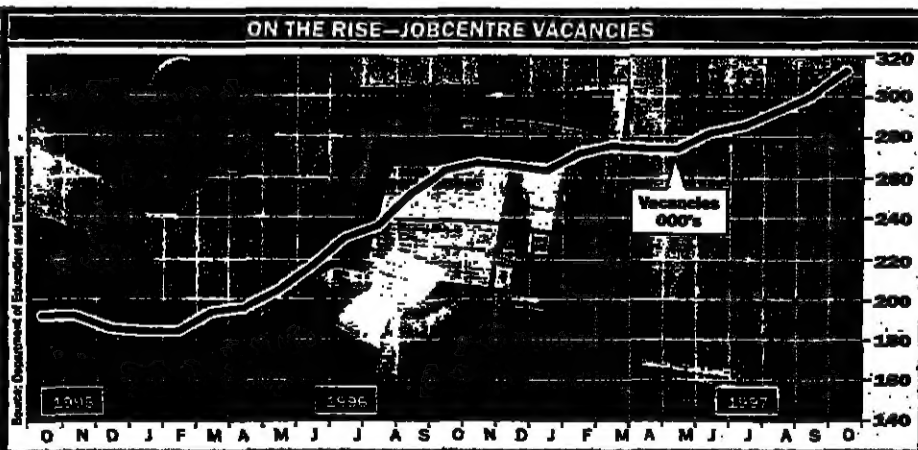
Some local ES managers and services are a deal less good than the best. As one local-level employment specialist puts it of their own local ES: "In our area's ES office if someone turns a fan on, it's the biggest movement they've made all day."

The shifts in the ES over the past year have caused strains: the service overall missed its performance target, managing to place only 1.7 million people into work instead of 2 million.

With falling unemployment, and falling staff numbers — ES manpower totals fall with unemployment, and are now down to about 30,000 — this year's target is lower, at 1.75 million.

Delivering the New Deal will be a further tough challenge for what has traditionally been a rather hidebound arm of government.

But the confidence to do so is there: "People are very positive about the New Deal," says Francesca Walford at Brixton Hill. "They really like it. They want it to work. This is a major investment in the Employment Service — and we want to deliver."



David Blunkett, left, and Gordon Brown aim to get people off welfare and into work

TELEVISION CHOICE

A mural for a prisoner

Date With an Artist
BBC2, 7.30pm

A shared passion for hip hop music brings together the artist Chris Offill and Anthony Leonard, who is doing time for robbery in Wormwood Scrubs. The challenge for Offill is to make a painting for Leonard's cell wall. Offill is no conventional painter. Since he left the Royal College of Art four years ago he has made his name with unorthodox designs incorporating unusual materials. These include elephant droppings, which he collects from London Zoo. But will the blobs of dung get past prison security? On a more cerebral plane the programme features Brad Lochore, whose paintings evoke shadows cast on a white canvas, and Anya Hurlbert, a vision scientist interested in how the eye makes sense of shapes and colours. Lochore wants to do the challenge of filling Hurlbert's empty wall.

Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
BBC2, 8.00pm

Dr Phil Hammond is something of a comedian as well as being a medic and it continues to show in this diverting pot-pourri. The content is authoritative enough but a gag is never too long coming, which means that the show probably attracts many people who would otherwise leap for the remote control. Hammond has a new acronym for most of us tonight. It is TUBE and stands for totally unnecessary breast examination. Too many young women are going to the GP for a sore throat or similar complaint, and being told that he wants to look at their breasts as well. A doctor who has been struck off still insists that it is routine medical practice. To which the programme loudly says: no, Dr Phil also brings good news for thinus sufferers (it can be treated) and explains how chilies can ease chronic pain.

Pantomime
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Tonight's backstage peep follows a production of *Mother Goose* in Birmingham. The producers claim it to be Britain's biggest and most lavish pantomime, with costumes and scenery alone costing £300,000. The hoped-for showstopper is a transformation scene in which Matthew Kelly, as



Dr Phil Hammond (BBC2, 8.00pm)

the dame, turns into, of all people, Joanna Lumley in her *Alibi* guise. A quick change for Kelly is the easy bit. More tricky is the "pool of beauty" which has real fountains spraying real water. At least that is the plan. In the best tradition of showbusiness hitches, the fountains do not work and there is just an hour to curtain up. None of this deters the Chuckle Brothers. Because their comedy routine has nothing to do with the plot they can recycle it from pantomime to pantomime with only slight modifications.

Immigrants Lost
Channel 4, 9.00pm

From Brian Woods and Kate Blewett, who memorably exposed the scandal of Chinese orphanages in *The Dying Rooms*, comes another scathing indictment of the abuse of children. Their two-part documentary draws its examples from several countries and not necessarily the obvious ones. In supposedly civilised Greece, children with disabilities can be consigned to institutions where they get no treatment, are never reassessed and are effectively left to die. The plight of the street children of Latin America is more public but no less distressing. Many turn to glue-sniffing, selling their bodies to pay for it. In Guatemala City a girl describes being raped by a group of police when she was 15. Woods and Blewett also visit a penal colony in the Urals where Russian boys of 14 can be locked up for two years for stealing loose change.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Sir Isaiah Berlin: Historian of Ideas
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The importance of Berlin and the impact of his recent death are illustrated by the fact that Radio 3 is giving over the evening to various aspects of his work. Indeed, and introduced by Humphrey Carpenter, there are interviews with many of those who knew him and worked with him, including Alfred Brendel, who plays part of the Schubert Piano Concerto in A and talks about his friendship with Berlin. There is also a recording of the final Mellon Lecture which Berlin gave in 1965 under the title *Some Sources of Romanticism — the Lasting Effects*. Carpenter will be talking to Berlin's literary executor, Henry Hardy, and to various academics about the extent to which Berlin will be understood by generations to come.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Gruning and Zoe Ball 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 John Peel 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00pm Dave Pearce 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Evening Session with Andy Kershaw 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Johnnie Walker 1.00pm Radio 2 2.00pm Ed Stewart 3.00pm Johnnie Walker 4.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 5.00pm Malcolm Lockwood with Big Band Big and Dingo Band 6.00pm Big Band Special 7.00pm Play Over Britain 10.30pm Richard Allen 11.00pm Steve Wright 1.00am Neil Lennon

RADIO 5 LIVE

8.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am Nicky Campbell 12.00pm Midday with Mark 2.00pm Radio 5 on Five 4.00pm Nationwide with Julian Worlock 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Sportsbeat: Music and under the spotlight. Some Sources of Romanticism: The Moody Blues Sheffield Wednesday v Barnsley at Hillsborough 10.00pm News Talk with Nick Robinson 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up At Night with Rhod Sharp 3.00am Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jennifer Clark 7.00pm Chris Evans 10.00pm (FM) Robb. Banks (AM) Graham Dene 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horse 4.00pm (FM) John 7.00pm (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Cathryn Jones 10.00pm Mark Forster 2.00pm Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Rose and Carol McMillan 9.00pm Scott Galloway 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Anna Rieboom 9.00pm James Whale 1.00am Ian Colville

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in C, Alexander's Feast, (Mozart or Beethoven) 6.30am Sir Isaiah Berlin: Historian of Ideas. See Choice. Humphrey Carpenter presents an evening dedicated to the memory, music and ideas of Sir Isaiah Berlin, who died on November 5. Includes at 7.30 Schubert (Piano Sonata in A) performed by Alfred Brendel. 8.00pm Some Sources of Romanticism. A lecture by Brian Cox and the Lasting Effects of Mozart (Don Giovanni, Act 4) 9.00pm In Tune with (A Fire at Sea) translated by Berlin 9.30pm Beethoven (Spring Quartet in C sharp minor), performed by the Busch Quartet 10.00pm Voices. Susan Sharpe presents the first of two programmes to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the German poet Heinrich Heine 10.45pm Heine: It includes a studio session from the sampler duo Fiat 11.30pm Composer of the Week: Cole Porter (1) 12.30pm Jazz Notes, with Richard Niles, includes a concert given by the BBC Big Band and the Jamaican jazz pianist Monty Alexander 1.00am The Night, with Donald MacLeod

RADIO 4

6.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00pm News Briefing 6.10pm Evening Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today 6.45pm Perhaps, Prime Minister, With Howel James and George Bridges (23) 6.55pm Weather 8.00pm News 8.00pm Sir Isaiah Berlin, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests 10.00pm (FM) News: Dear Diary (48) 10.00pm (LW) News: Dear Diary (48) 10.30pm News: A How, Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30pm News: Live, with Vincent Duggally 12.00pm News: Yes and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.30pm Nationwide 12.35pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: The World at One. The first of three new episodes of Stephen Mulrine's crime series, with 3.00pm News: The Archers (2) 3.15pm News: The Archers (3) 3.30pm News: The Archers (4) 3.45pm News: The Archers (5) 4.00pm News: The Archers (6) 4.15pm News: The Archers (7) 4.30pm News: The Archers (8) 4.45pm News: The Archers (9) 4.55pm News: The Archers (10) 5.00pm News: The Archers (11) 5.15pm News: The Archers (12) 5.30pm News: The Archers (13) 5.45pm News: The Archers (14) 6.00pm News: The Archers (15) 6.15pm News: The Archers (16) 6.30pm News: The Archers (17) 6.45pm News: The Archers (18) 7.00pm News: The Archers (19) 7.15pm News: The Archers (20) 7.30pm News: The Archers (21) 7.45pm News: The Archers (22) 8.00pm News: The Archers (23) 8.15pm News: The Archers (24) 8.30pm News: The Archers (25) 8.45pm News: The Archers (26) 9.00pm News: The Archers (27) 9.15pm News: The Archers (28) 9.30pm News: The Archers (29) 9.45pm News: The Archers (30) 10.00pm News: The Archers (31) 10.15pm News: The Archers (32) 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Portrait of a lady in an unconvincing pose

Anybody who didn't know who Helen Mirren was supposed to be in *Painted Lady* (TV) last night probably was around for the 1960s and just couldn't remember. Either that, or they hadn't been watching *Brit Girls* (Marianne, Channel 4, Saturday), when Marianne Faithfull popped up looking so like Mirren it was uncanny.

Anyway, there they both were, two great survivors — one happily discussing Mick, motorbikes and Mars bars and getting it all over in an enjoyable half-hour; the other unhelpfully showing that even the very best can pick a bad some-times and that, by some curious universal law, it nearly always turns out to be a four-hour, television mini-series.

Mirren was playing Maggie Sheridan, an ageing rock-singer now living in genteel poverty in Ireland, surrounded by vinyl memories and supported by the

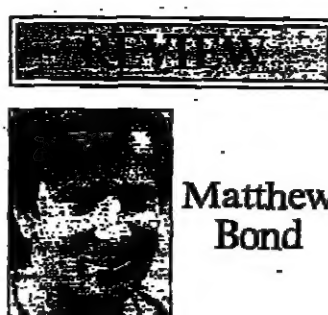
munificence of the Stafford family, the kindly but equally impoverished local gentry. They rescued her from living rough in New York a decade ago, she tells a visiting policeman, and got her through rehab. I winced. I'm nervous of dramas where principal characters have been through "rehab".

Now, about these Staffords. Sebastian, the son, is a pretty, gay, drug-user who owes £50,000 to one of Dublin's nastier drug dealers. His father, Sir Charles, had resolved to do something about it by arranging for some of his paintings to be stolen but only after taking the precaution of insuring them... for £50,000. Then one of the robbers accidentally shot him dead. Hence the visiting policeman.

All this became first very unclear and then clear-as-can-be in the space of the opening half-hour. Which, unfortunately left Alan Cubitt, the writer, with three

and-a-half hours to fill. Perhaps he panicked (who knows?), but for one reason or another he chose to fill it with a storyline so convoluted and improbable that the characters keep having to stop and explain it to each other.

Only one painting, it turned out, was stolen and that, naturally, turned out to be a long-lost Old Master. We know that because, conveniently, Maggie's younger sister (Lesley Manville) is an art expert and her husband (Michael Maloney) is an art dealer. So Maggie resolved to become an art dealer herself (as you do), buying the painting back from the thieves and selling it for huge sums to restore the Stafford family fortunes. Her brother-in-law thought this a very bad idea, but was talked round with astonishing ease and within minutes had furnished her with piles of cash, to pay for a tacky musical



Matthew Bond

transformation scene in which kohl and henna were swapped for mascara and highlights, a London flat and instructions such as "only to go up to \$3.8 million for the Goya". Think I'll be an art dealer, too.

So far, so ridiculous. By the end of part one, Sebastian was dangling from the ceiling in his knickers, having, apparently walked into an gay sex-killer sub-

plot that nobody can have been expecting: Maggie was about to meet somebody behind one of those fashionable, glass-brick walls that Tessa Shaw keeps going on about in *Home Front*. Part two, tonight, is only for those convinced that Mirren can do no wrong and for annoying people who have done all their Christmas cards.

Debt and drugs were two of the themes explored in *Bumping the Odds* (BBC2), a film apparently considered so Scottish that it couldn't be shown until 10.15pm, after a repeat of an old *Horizon*. The accents, it has to be said, did take a bit of getting used to.

The subject matter, however, did not. Poverty, debt, drugs, alcohol, violence, the complete absence of hope — the problem that Scottish film-makers currently face is that, post-*Trainspotting*, this sort of urban canvas is going to become a cliché with a wider audience long before anything comes along to

replace it. But at least it was authentic-looking cliché.

This variation involved the friendship between Lynette (Shirley Henderson), a somewhat improbable young mother of two, and Terry (Sharon Small), whose provocative dialogue ("men are for shags, friends are for life") and tousled hair-do suggested a deep-rooted desire to be Anna from *This Life* when she grew up.

Into this walked Joe McFadden, whose boyish good looks did so much for *The Crow Road* but here were directed to throw you off the scent. He arrived bearing gifts (a new washing machine) and the promise of a happy ending. But in a Glasgow film without Bill Paterson? Not a chance. He had borrowed the money from the ruthless loan shark whose minions slit women's cheeks for fun and with whom Terry was secretly sleeping.

Depressed? I was, long before Andy had to do what an Andy had to do.

That's the drugs and rock 'n' roll out of the way, all we need now for the weekend to be complete was some sex. Experience has shown that by now we should not have expected too much from the final part of *Tom Jones* (BBC1), a series which has been stylishly bold and enjoyably energetic, but the least sexy period romp I can remember. Experience was right.

That just left *Storyville*: Naughty Boy (BBC2), the story of Ole Ege, a retired Danish pornographer who could easily have been invented by *The Fast Show*. This implausible Danish-made documentary positively bulged with nude images, but only after they had been treated with every computerised special effect you can find in a modern editing suite. Too much of this, I quickly realised, really would you make go blind.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33021)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (145779)
 - 9.00am Good Living (1352330)
 - 9.25am Style Challenge From the Clothes Show Live (1348137)
 - 9.50am Kinn (1208427)
 - 10.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (11853382)
 - 10.55am The Really Useful Show (11853388)
 - 11.35am Change That (3071717)
 - 12.00am News (118533224)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1206717)
 - 12.35pm Give Us A Clue (5479205)
 - 1.00pm News (1458466)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (1458466)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (36442205)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (1458466)
 - 2.10pm Petrolhead! 1970s crime series, with Barry Newman (1140750)
 - 3.00pm Vets' School The progress of seven final-year students at Bristol University's veterinary training school (11853388)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (7055514) 3.50pm Enchanted Land (8375243) 4.00pm Road Dash's Revolving Recipes (7055514) 4.15pm Noel's Island (3419601) 4.40pm Goatsnaps (8340137) 5.00pm Neighbours (11739755) 5.10pm Blue Peter (118533224)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (11739755)
 - 6.00pm News (118533224)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (118533224)
 - 7.00pm This is Your Life Michael Aspel invites another unsuspecting personality to take a trip down memory lane (11040)
 - 7.30pm Here and Now Julie Morris and the team introduce the magazine live from Manchester (11040)
 - 8.00pm EastEnders Simon resolves attention from an unexpected source; Frank sticks his nose into Ricky and Bianca's affairs (11040)
 - 8.30pm Spark Ashley learns a valuable lesson, while attempting to shake off the unwanted attentions of married man-eater Ursula (11040)
 - 9.00pm News (118533224)
 - 9.30pm Hotel A military reunion checks into the Adelphi, and it isn't long before manager Eileen Downey is coping with three retired soldiers stuck in a lift (111137)
 - 10.00pm Panorama In-depth reports on topical issues (118533224)
 - 10.40pm On Side John Inverdale meets Alan Hansen, Jackie Stewart, Jimmy Cantello and Jonathan Lomu. Last in series (118533224)
 - 11.30pm Film '97 with Barry Norman Review of the latest James Bond movie Tomorrow Never Dies, with Pierce Brosnan making his second appearance as Bond. Tom Brook interviews director Oliver Stone about U-Turn, a black comedy starring Sean Penn (118533224)
 - 12.00pm The Sunlight Boys (1975) George Burns stars in Oscar-winning role with Walter Matthau, playing a former vaudeville double act who reunites for a television special. Directed by Herbert Ross (304793)
 - 1.45pm Weather (7486625)
 - 1.50pm BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Education: Emma (87330) 8.30pm Changing the Mood (16773)
 - 7.00pm See, Hear, Breakfast News (118533224) and signing (3371514)
 - 7.15pm Teletubbies (12588514) 7.40pm Penelope Pitop (118533224) 8.05pm Blue Peter (118533224) 8.25pm Jungle (118533224) 8.35pm Orville and Cuddles (118533224) 8.45pm Harry and the Hendersons (118533224) 9.10pm The Fugitive (122614) 10.00pm Teletubbies (30356)
 - 10.30pm The Fugitive (1941) b/w Comedy with Don Ameche and Rosalind Russell. Directed by W. S. van Dyke II (1060755)
 - 12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (1348137) 12.35pm Working Lunch (22243) 1.00pm The Greasy Asparagus Gang (118533224) 1.10pm The History Hour (2508868) 2.10pm Going, Going, Gong (118533224) 2.40pm News (118533224) 2.45pm Situation Vacant (118533224) 3.25pm News (118533224) 3.30pm The Village (118533224)
 - 4.00pm Ready Steady Go! (392) 4.30pm Through the Keyhole (118533224) 4.55pm Easter (118533224) 5.30pm Today's the Day (156)
 - 6.00pm The Simpsons (118533224)
 - 6.20pm Satellite Galaxia (118533224)
 - 7.10pm A Woman Called Sarah A 92-year-old remembers her life (118533224)
 - 7.30pm Human Rights, Human Wrongs Joanna Lumley presents the first in a new series (841953)
 - 7.30pm A Date with an Artist Brad Pitt, Lorraine and Chris O'Neil Series in which 12 British artists create new work in response to individuals and their environment (118533224)
 - 8.00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Chronic pain treated with a cream based on chilies; trillium (118533224)
 - 8.30pm Land of the Tiger A trek across the Great Indian Desert (118533224)
 - 9.20pm Human Rights, Human Wrongs (118533224)
 - 9.30pm Never Mind the Buzzcocks (118533224)
 - 10.00pm Fm Alan Partridge Last in series. (118533224)
 - 10.30pm Newswatch (421885)
 - 11.15pm Oldie TV (748953)
 - 11.55pm Weather (288224)
 - 12.00pm The Midnight Hour (57806)
 - 12.30pm Learning Zone: Russell Grant (5783373) 12.45pm Outdoors in - Muslims in Europe (288224) 1.35pm Poland (8311248) 2.00pm Art and Craft of Movie Making (54198) 4.00pm Greek Language and People (53554) 5.00pm Dynamics of Tennis... (5252600) 5.25pm Creative Management (3128248)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (2854088)
 - 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (11357885)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (1100427)
 - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (72885)
 - 10.30pm This Morning (118533224)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (5991408)
 - 12.30pm News (118533224)
 - 12.55pm The Fashion Police (118533224) 1.25pm Home and Away (118533224) 1.50pm Countdown to Christmas (118533224) 2.20pm Murder, She Wrote (8099683)
 - 3.20pm News (118533224)
 - 3.25pm Regional News and weather (4511478)
 - 3.30pm Tots TV (2228285) 3.40pm The Snow Norrie (8371427) 3.50pm Snow White - a Wolves, Witches and Giants Christmas Special (2228285) 4.05pm Sooty and Co (3491205) 4.25pm Men in Black (3400853) 4.50pm How 2 (8654717)
 - 5.10pm WALES: The House Transforming a derelict Victorian house into a home for the 21st century (118533224)
 - 5.10pm Yan Can Cook: The Best of Chlm (118533224)
 - 5.40pm News (118533224)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (118533224)
 - 6.25pm HTV Weather (206917)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (118533224)
 - 6.50pm HTV Crime Stories (503327)
 - 7.00pm Telling Telephones: Numbers with Philip Schofield (3408)
 - 7.30pm Coronation Street Fred is on hand when Liz gets into trouble, and Natalie's suspicions are confirmed (118533224)
 - 8.00pm Mind the Baby, Mr Bean Mr Bean, also Rowan Atkinson, is left in charge of a baby at a funeral - a recipe for disaster (118533224)
 - 8.30pm Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (118533224)
 - 9.00pm Painted Lady (22) Murder mystery began yesterday. Sir Charles is brutally murdered and a valuable 18th-century painting is stolen. Maggie sets out tracking down the missing artwork, but finds herself in danger. Continues after the News (118533224)
 - 10.00pm News at Ten (118533224)
 - 10.30pm Regional News and weather (812243)
 - 10.40pm Painted Lady Conclusion (118533224)
 - 11.40pm WALES: B&H Ice Hockey Cup Final: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (855088)
 - 11.40pm Highlander (855088)
 - 12.40pm Football Extra (855088)
 - 1.40pm War of the Worlds (729928)
 - 2.35pm Rockmania (8551489)
 - 3.30pm ITV at the Belfast Festival (28544)
 - 4.00pm Minding Contact (82400)
 - 5.00pm Coronation Street (15084)
 - 5.30pm News (15489)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (5473021)
 - 2.25-3.25pm Blue Healers (8086663)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (9467601)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Central News (435205)
 - 11.40pm Charlie Grace (55088)
 - 1.40pm Late and Loud (7298282)
 - 2.35pm Central Jobfinder '97 (7272812)
 - 4.50pm Eastern Eye (7291809)
 - 5.30pm Asian Eye (4666625)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm Shortland Street (5473021)
 - 2.25-3.25pm Blue Healers (1154953)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9467601)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (595)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Perfectly Pats (175)
 - 11.40pm The Golf Show (217934)
 - 12.10pm Meridian Motorsport (5241151)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm What's My Line? (5473021)
 - 2.25-3.25pm Blue Healers (1154953)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (9467601)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (435205)
 - 11.40pm Videotech Special (855088)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (66359)
 - 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (61717)
 - 9.00pm Something So Right (77205)
 - 9.30pm You Were Meant for Me (1948, b/w) with Dan Dailly and Jeanne Crain. A musical about a band leader and his wife whose career is derailed by the Wall Street crash. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (4273175)
 - 11.10pm High Sign (b/w). A 1920 Buster Keaton short (9742040)
 - 11.30pm The Trouble with Kids The first of five programmes following four families experiencing problems with their offspring (1/5) (1/25) 12.00pm Sesame Street (97069) 12.30pm Light Lunch (10137) 1.30pm Earthscape (118533224)
 - 1.35pm The Last Winter (1980) with David Ferry. The story of a young man's acceptance of the end of childhood. Directed by Aaron Kim Johnston (118533224)
 - 3.30pm Collectors' Lot This week, from Otley Hall, Suffolk, featuring the Beverly Sisters' cushion collection (118533224) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (118533224) 4.30pm Countdown (118533224) 4.55pm Montel Williams (118533224) 5.30pm Pet Rescue (118533224)
 - 6.00pm Home Improvement Tim and Mark tell out (118533224)
 - 6.30pm Hollyoaks Teen soap (118533224)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (118533224)
 - 7.55pm Innocents Gained The first of four daily programmes featuring letters from British children to the leaders of countries exposed in *Innocents Lost* (see 9pm) (855205)
 - 8.00pm Movers and Shakers: Strike Lucky Indoor games: Asian boardgame Carrom which has close links with snooker (1/5) (118533224)
 - 8.30pm Pantoland A series looking at the pleasures and pains in the world of pantomime. Tonight, a production of *Mother Goose* with Matthew Kelly (3/4) (118533224)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocast decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
 - 6.00am 5 News Early (4552175)
 - 7.30pm Milkshake! (7832334) 7.35pm Kablam! (942427) 8.00pm Havaikazo (118533224)
 - 8.30pm WorldWide Documentary series about the Victorians (7119) (5504822)
 - 9.00pm Espresso (7366427) 10.00pm Exclusive (118533224) 10.30pm Pole Stars (118533224)
 - 11.00pm Lasse (3670088) 11.50pm Double Espresso (80238359) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (118533224) 12.30pm Family Affairs (118533224)
 - 1.00pm 5 News Update (8194514) 1.05pm Sunset Beach (118533224) 2.00pm 5 News Company. Live entertainment show (8540224)
 - 3.30pm Ice Pops (118533224) with Paul Cross and Dan Haggan. A drama set in the world of ice skating. Directed by Barry Samson (8532040)
 - 5.20pm 5's Company - Late Extra (56199021)
 - 5.30pm Whistle Audience participation quiz show (4018088)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent The game show without a host (4008061)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs Chris is frustrated by Annie's sex ban (118533224)
 - 7.00pm Exclusive Includes a look at the trend for celebrities releasing their own lines of designer clothes (5457885)
 - 7.30pm Animal Outposts The different species of seabird that live around the Galapagos Islands (118533224)
 - 8.00pm Period Rooms in Newcastle, the contestants try to recreate an 1880s farmhouse kitchen (118533224)
 - 8.30pm 5 News (118533224)

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Codes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus Codes. These numbers allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically record a programme. To use the Video Plus Code for the programme you wish to record, Videoplus+ (V), Plus Code (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gamstar Development Ltd.

Presenter Joanna Lumley (7.20pm)

7.30pm Human Rights, Human Wrongs Joanna Lumley presents the first in a new series (841953)

Heleen Mirren as Maggie (8.00pm)

9.00pm Painted Lady (22) Murder mystery began yesterday. Sir Charles is brutally murdered and a valuable 18th-century painting is stolen. Maggie sets out tracking down the missing artwork, but finds herself in danger. Continues after the News (118533224)

Guatemalan street child (8.00pm)

8.00pm Innocents Lost: Dying Rooms A two-part documentary exposing the abuses against children (118533224)

Thaw and Waterman (8.00pm)

9.00pm The Sweeney: Money, Money, Money A pool winner becomes the victim of blackmail. Vintage Flying Squad drama series with John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (8033717)

Thaw and Waterman (8.00pm)

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- For further listings see SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (20427) 8.00am The Day of Our Lives (7594) 12.00pm Courtship Under Fire (1398)
 - 2.00pm Sally Jessy Raphael (4333) 3.00pm Jerry Jones (74156) 4.00pm Oprah Winfrey (5955) 5.00pm The View (1173) 6.30pm Married... with Children (8427) 7.00pm The Simpsons (6514) 7.30pm The Simpsons (6514) 8.00pm The Simpsons (6514) 8.30pm The Simpsons (6514) 9.00pm The Simpsons (6514) 9.30pm The Simpsons (6514) 10.00pm The Simpsons (6514) 10.30pm The Simpsons (6514) 11.00pm The Simpsons (6514) 11.30pm The Simpsons (6514) 12.00pm The Simpsons (6514)
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- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm The Johnson Story (1949) (8047243) 6.00pm The Johnson Story (1949) (8047243) 8.00pm The Johnson Story (1949) (8047243) 10.00pm The Johnson Story (1949) (8047243) 12.00pm The Johnson Story (1949) (8047243)
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- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 6.00am Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 8.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 10.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137)
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- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00am American Football (20427) 8.00pm American Football (20427) 9.00pm American Football (20427) 10.00pm American Football (20427) 11.00pm American Football (20427) 12.00pm American Football (20427)
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- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 2.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 4.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 6.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 8.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 10.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137)
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- SKY SPORTS 4**
- 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 2.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 4.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 6.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 8.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 10.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137)
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- SKY SPORTS 5**
- 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 2.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 4.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 6.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 8.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 10.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137) 12.00pm Spanish Premier Liga (12137)
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ter fall surge

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Guinea Davis in The Long Kiss Goodnight (Sky Box Office 1)

- TC**
- 6.00am Happy Ever After 5.30 Bobby's World 1.00pm The Simpsons 2.30pm The Simpsons 4.00pm The Simpsons 5.30pm The Simpsons 7.00pm The Simpsons 8.30pm The Simpsons 10.00pm The Simpsons 11.30pm The Simpsons 1.00pm The Simpsons 2.30pm The Simpsons 4.00pm The Simpsons 5.30pm The Simpsons 7.00pm The Simpsons 8.30pm The Simpsons 10.00pm The Simpsons 11.30pm The Simpsons

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 - NICKELODEON**
 - 6.00am Kitaro 6.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 3.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 3.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 4.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 4.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 5.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 5.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 6.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 6.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 3.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 3.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 4.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 4.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 5.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 5.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 6.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 6.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 7.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 8.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 9.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 10.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 11.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 12.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 1.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.00am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 2.30am Ashita no Yoru ni Yuki 3.

COMPANIES 44

Growth not so absolutely fab at Harvey Nichols

BUSINESS

TIMELY 45

Roger Bootle proffers a euro for our thoughts



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY DECEMBER 8 1997

UK engines could drive French Toyota plant



The Toyota Fun Coupé is built for life on city roads

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

MILLIONS of pounds worth of investment could still be rescued for Britain despite the announcement expected from Toyota tomorrow that it will build a new car plant in France. The plant will need up to 100,000 engines a year, which could be supplied from Toyota's plant at Deside, North Wales.

That would mean more jobs and big investment for Deside,

which had its capacity doubled by the Japanese this year. Handing Deside the main supply contract would compensate Britain for the loss of the £350 million investment expected to go to France.

Toyota would still not confirm its decision last night but a formal announcement is expected tomorrow morning after talks from French government officials last week.

First reaction was that Toyota's main European manu-

facturing site at Burnaston in Derbyshire had been snubbed by company executives in Japan. Burnaston builds the Corolla and Avenis models.

British management wanted to make a third model, a small city car, and bid fiercely for the investment to add to £1.1 billion worth already spent in Britain.

But the car would be a 1.3-litre to 1.5-litre model almost entirely for sale on the Continent, where small cars account for up to half of all sales. It is thought Toyota

executives believed the plant should be situated nearer to its main customers in keeping with company philosophy of manufacturing where it sells.

However, the French plant will need engines when it opens in three years. Toyota's plant on Deside is one of the most advanced in Europe. Although relatively few jobs would be gained in Wales, investment in a new automated production line could be worth almost £100 million and would contribute to

Britain's balance of payments. Prototypes of Toyota's new small car for France were unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September. Called "Fun" models, they are designed to spend much of their lives on city roads. They will have low fuel consumption of about 80 miles to the gallon and will be among the most environmentally friendly cars, using Toyota's "lean burn" technology, which reduces the amount of fuel needed.

Tesco to offer 1,500 jobs under New Deal

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TESCO, the supermarket chain, today gives the Government's Welfare to Work New Deal jobs programme its biggest business boost by offering up to 1,500 jobs to young people on the scheme.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will welcome Tesco's move, which also offers free training to young people taken on by small shopkeepers based near Tesco stores.

Although the £2.5 billion jobs programme is attracting widespread business backing from a range of companies including Marks & Spencer, Ford and J Sainsbury, Tesco's announcement is the single largest company decision to support the scheme.

The New Deal programme aims to get 250,000 young people off welfare and into one of four options — a job, full-time education or training, working in the voluntary sector or on the Government's environmental task force.

The New Deal pilots start on January 5 in 12 areas around the country. Tesco will begin recruiting young people in its head office, two depots and 16 stores within two of the "pathfinder" areas.

French sale, page 45
High-tech deal, page 46

Generators pressed to help save pits

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is preparing to strike deals on energy policy with the electricity generators in a bid to save the coal industry.

In the past few days it has made top-level approaches to the three main generators urging them to increase coal stockpiles and do everything else in their power to boost the market for UK coal.

In return the generators are demanding greater security for their market and for indications about their future during reviews on regulation and the trading of electricity.

The Government is thought to be receptive to giving National Power, PowerGen and Eastern Electricity incentives to burn coal such as room to develop through integration in the UK market and guarantees that their position will not be further threatened by forced sales of power stations. Ministers are understood to be willing to include public policy and competition considerations to draft an overarching framework for energy.

A senior Labour source said: "We are getting to the point of having an energy policy. Before the coal crisis our policy was that we didn't have a policy but now the

semblance of a balanced energy policy is being put together." He said an action plan, largely drafted by Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions, was being implemented. The survival plan for coal has been envisaged as medium term, but the generators are under pressure to engineer a short-term fix to head off colliery closures.

The Government, which last week halted all new gas-fired power stations, is expected to announce a further boost for deep-mined coal, and is close to tighter guidelines for open-cast mining.

Government insiders say that the coal crisis — in which up to eight pits and 5,000 jobs are at risk — has focused minds on other energy problems such as the change to the energy mix when the old Magnox nuclear stations begin to run down generating.

Implementation of the plans to shape energy is firmly under the control of the Prime Minister's office. This further underscores the deep dissatisfaction that is believed to be held about the Department of Trade and Industry's handling of the coal crisis and of energy policy. Last week John Battle,

the Industry Minister in charge of energy, announced the moratorium on gas-fired stations to the Trade and Industry Select Committee while his written evidence to its inquiry — fixed the previous day — said a moratorium was "not directly relevant" and case-by-case considerations would continue.

The Government's approach to the generators for help to alleviate the coal crisis could trigger further tenderings for millions of tonnes of coal. The generators realise they are the key to the crisis, short of government subsidies or purchases, and will maximise their bargaining position before ordering.

RJB Mining, the biggest producer, faces the direct threat of closing pits if a ten-million tonne shortfall in contracts is not bridged with fresh orders. This week RJB meets with PowerGen, which has not placed an order for RJB coal for after March 31 when the present contracts expire.

National Power could place further orders with RJB in the near future. It has already said that it may be looking for a little more coal and now faces government pressure to place orders at home rather than buy imported stocks. RJB said yesterday that it was trying to compete with the price of imported coal.



John Monks, left, TUC General Secretary, and Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, are at odds on union recognition

Ministers back CBI over unions

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is backing big business against the trade unions over a key issue of the Government's White Paper on fairness at work, to be published early next year.

The agreement, details of which were disclosed by *The Times* last month, follows talks between the CBI and the TUC, after Mr Blair asked them to narrow the gap between business and unions over Labour's plan for statutory recognition of unions for collective bargaining.

The CBI and the TUC have been unable to agree on some issues, including the definition of a bargaining unit, and the "relevant" workforce to be

reached over union recognition. This will form the spine of the Government's White Paper on fairness at work, to be published early next year.

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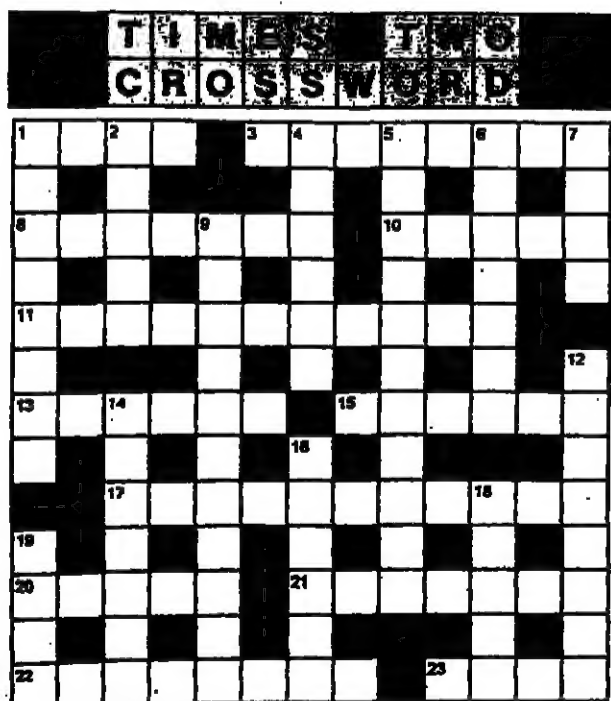
This week in THE TIMES

■ Tomorrow
Julian Lee's weekly marketing column

■ Wednesday
Adam Jones on plans for the world's biggest plane



■ Thursday
Brownen Maddox, above, with her American Agenda



No 1271

ACROSS

- 1 Broken cloud; cause great pain (4)
- 3 Sort of heck; a blade (8)
- 5 *Canterbury Tales* poet (7)
- 10 Jostle; a boat (5)
- 11 Friendly group spirit (11)
- 13 Give a job to (5)
- 15 Big businessman (6)
- 17 Dinosaur "bird" (11)
- 20 Turn of spiral; fingerprint pattern (5)
- 21 Hobbit author (7)
- 22 Model instance (8)
- 23 Indecent (4)

DOWN

- 1 (Bullet) rebound (8)
- 2 Magic object; allure (5)
- 4 Angry outburst (6)
- 5 Do what you like here (7,4)
- 6 Submarine weapon (7)
- 7 Unrestricted; undecided (4)
- 9 Show disdain (4,4,3)
- 12 At an angle; tending (8)
- 14 Am. Indian baby (7)
- 16 Antonio's lawyer (in disguise) (M of V) (6)
- 18 String; cord (5)
- 19 Affectingly sweet (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1270

- ACROSS: 1 Go for broke 8 Laundry 9 Niece 10 Hints 11 Whenever 13 Hyena 14 Scold 16 Cut it out 17 Beam 20 Lethe 21 Balfour 22 Unfriendly
- DOWN: 1 Gulch 2 Fourth estate 3 Ride 4 Rhythm 5 Kindness 6 Leave one cold 7 See red 12 Pantheon 13 Heckle 15 Lumber 18 Marry 19 Slog

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Foreigners eye Luton airport

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

OVERSEAS airport authorities are lining up to become the first foreign investor to run a leading British airport. Three of the most aggressively marketed airports in western Europe have been shortlisted in the contest to take over the operation of Luton airport for the next 30 years. Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Schiphol airport, Amsterdam, are believed to be the main contenders among the remaining bidders to take on a concession that includes a £170 million development programme.

They see Luton as a key link in forging closer links with the British passenger market and challenging Heathrow.

Other bidders in the contest, expected to be completed within a month, are British train and bus operators Stagecoach, National Express and Firstbus.

Slower growth is predicted

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE British economy is set to slow sharply next year as consumers lose confidence and as the Government's tax-and-spend policies ensure that UK interest rates are held higher than most other industrialised countries for most of 1998, according to the latest quarterly report from the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

The institute is expecting growth to fall to only 1.7 per cent in 1998, considerably less than the 2.25 per cent being forecast by the Treasury. Douglas McWilliams, economic adviser, is not predicting anything like the fall-back recessions of 1980 and 1990, but a period of below-trend growth or a "growth recession". He said: "This time the economy will gently go off the boil and, indeed, for those companies facing skill shortages or input cost pressures, the growth slowdown may make life easier."

City out to foil rogue deals

By ADAM JONES

DECEMBER 31, usually a lethargic half-day in City dealing rooms, is going to be different this year.

Teething troubles with the Stock Exchange's new electronic dealing system, Sets, have left fund managers fretting that the market could plunge just before it closes, cutting the vital end-of-year value of their fund — and their performance-related fees.

One option being explored for December 31 is to cut the half-day in half again, leaving just two hours' trading. The aim is to shoehorn business into a smaller period to minimise the time when the order book is sparse. "That would provide the liquidity to stop any rapid movements," said one insider. A decision may be made this week.

Sets is vulnerable to last-minute manipulation. Dealers put few orders in early in the morning and remove orders before the 4.30pm close, so

orders to stop rogue traders moving the market. However, this itself could be classed as market manipulation.

One head of trading thought it unlikely that anyone would try to manipulate the FTSE 100 for their own ends on December 31, saying: "Everyone will want to seem whiter than white at the end of the year."

Options for a long-term solution to the problem include a 4.10pm close instead of 4.30pm. This would put Sets in line with Life, the futures and options exchange.

Date	FTSE 100 close	Change	Number of official list shares traded
31/12/96	4,118.5	+2.8	153.4 million
29/12/96	3,889.3	+12.6	415.1 million
30/12/96	3,065.5	-3.1	222.6 million
31/12/97	3,418.4	-18.4	225 million

Trading volumes supplied by Datastream

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Midland Life	30.75
Abbey National Life	32.78
Barclays Life	35.40
Commercial Union	36.00
Friends Provident	41.58
Pearl Assurance	44.00
Clerical Medical	45.50
London & Manchester	50.85
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	21.00 p.m.

Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers	
Midland Life	69.51
Commercial Union	75.00
Abbey National Life	77.58
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	111.54
Scottish Life	137.40
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